

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

All you need
to prepare for
coming year
Scene magazine



Charley hits Fla., leaving
15 dead, thousands
homeless

Pages 14, 16

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2004

\$1.00

Aide: Bush to lay out military overhaul plan

Up to 70,000 troops to be pulled from overseas in slow process Page 12



Hosts hurting

Greek sprinters Kenteris, Thanou
suspended for missing drug tests
Page 45

1 down, 7 to go

Phelps' record quest begins with gold
in men's 400-meter individual medley

Back page



Troops return with cash to burn on new gadgets

Page 6



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSL/Stars and Stripes

PHOTO BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Debra Melton, manager at the Baumholder PowerZone in Germany, helps Pvt. Kevin Boaudry, center, and Pfc. David Myers, both from the Baumholder-based 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, find a new electronic gadget. As troops return from Iraq, many are spending their extra pay at local PowerZones.

STARS & STRIPES

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....22
 American Roundup.....24-25
 Classified.....33-37
 Comics.....Stripes Comics
 Crossword.....Stripes Scene
 Horoscope.....26
 Letters.....24
 Opinion.....27
 Parade.....29
 Religion.....23Sports.....38-48
 TV listings.....28
 Weather.....32
 Your Money.....30-31

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Ray Charles' death: The mother of Ray Charles' 16-year-old son has asked a Los Angeles court to increase child support for the teenager from \$3,000 a month to at least \$60,000. Mary Anne den Bok filed a petition Tuesday in which she says additional money from Charles' estate would provide Corey Robinson den Bok with "the lifestyle he enjoyed" before his father's death June 10.

Her petition seeks a minimum figure of \$60,000 a month but suggests the appropriate support should be \$240,800 per month.

A hearing was scheduled for Sept. 27 in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Calls to a Charles family representative, Jerry Digney, were not immediately returned Friday night.

The famed singer and musician was 73 when he died of acute liver disease at his Beverly Hills home. He left 12 children and, according to the petition, a \$100 million estate.

Ohio shootings: Attorneys for the man accused in a series of highway shootings around central Ohio want to suppress any incriminating statements he may have made after his arrest March 17 in Las Vegas.

In a motion filed Friday, attorneys for Charles A. McCoy Jr. said detectives didn't let McCoy sign a Miranda rights waiver before he was interrogated.

McCoy's attorneys also said the statements were not voluntary because their client had not slept and had not taken his medication for paranoid schizophrenia.

McCoy, 28, is charged with 24 counts, including aggravated murder, murder and attempted murder.

Hacking murder probe: Police have seized surveillance equipment from the psychiatric hospital where Mark Hacking worked as an orderly and the convenience store where he was seen twice the night his wife, Lori, presumably died.

The Sicking, 28, is accused of killing Lori Hacking, 27, while she slept and dumping her body in a trash bin. Authorities believe the bin is at the University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute, Hacking's former employer.

The equipment taken from the hospital was a digital recorder for surveillance cameras, according to court files unsealed Friday.



Hacking

Business

Google stock: Google Inc. opened an unprecedented \$3 billion electronic auction for its shares Friday morning by vowing to fight any court challenges to its IPO stemming from a Playboy Magazine interview of its founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page.

The Securities and Exchange Commission could have forced Google to delay the IPO because of rules prohibiting hyping of a stock just before its sale to the public. But according to a person familiar with the decision, the SEC has opted not to delay the offering.

Instead, the source said Friday afternoon, the agency required Google to make three disclosures to proceed: First, that the company tell investors it may have violated the law in the period. Second, that Google correct certain inaccuracies in the Playboy article, including data on how many people visit Google's Web site in a day. Third, Google was required to incorporate the entire Playboy story as an attachment to its prospectus.



Iraq prison abuse: A group of Iraq prisoners is released from Abu Ghraib prison Saturday on the outskirts of Baghdad. A soldier accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners at the prison has been arraigned on charges including maltreatment of subordinates, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts with detainees, the military said Friday. Spc. Megan Ambuhl was arraigned Wednesday, the military said in a statement. At the hearing, her attorney did not enter a plea, the statement said. Ambuhl and three other soldier charged in the case will face a pretrial hearing in a U.S. military tribunal in Mannheim, Germany, on Aug. 23.

Wal-Mart lawsuit: A federal appeals court agreed Friday to hear Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s appeal of a San Francisco judge's order approving class-action status for a sex-discrimination lawsuit representing as many as 1.6 million current and former women employees.

The suit alleges that the retail giant set up a system that frequently pays its female workers less than their male counterparts for comparable jobs and bypasses them for promotions.

World

Bosnian mass graves: Forensic experts completed the excavation of a mass grave in eastern Bosnia on Tuesday and said they had found 234 bodies of people killed in the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Excavation of the site near the town of Bratunac, about 55 miles northeast of the capital Sarajevo, took three weeks, said Murat Hurić, the team leader.

Most of the dead appeared to be Bosnian Muslims who had lived in Bratunac and were killed by Bosnian Serb forces in 1992, he said. A smaller number of the victims were believed to have been killed in the 1995 massacre in nearby Srebrenica, the largest massacre in post-World War II Europe.

Burundi attacks: Attackers armed with machetes and automatic weapons raided a U.N. refugee camp in western Burundi, shooting and hacking to death at least 180 people, U.N. officials said.

Burundian Hutu rebels claimed responsibility, insisting the camp for Congolese Tutsi refugees fleeing tribal fighting was a hide-out for Burundi army soldiers and Congolese tribal militiamen.



An armed policeman watches as members of the al-Qaida linked Abu Sayyaf handcuffed to each other board a van to take them to prison Friday, in southern Philippines.

Abu Sayyaf trial: A southern Philippines court sentenced 17 members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militant group to death Friday for kidnapping nurses from a hospital three years ago.

Only 13 of the defendants were at the heavily guarded court house in Isabela, capital of the southern Basilan island, where a clerk read the ruling that described a kidnapping spree that began with the mass abduction of more than 50 pupils, teachers and a priest in 2000 and continued with the taking of 17 Filipino tourists and three Americans a year later. Two of those Americans died.

Afghan militia clashes: Militias loyal to rival warlords clashed in western Afghanistan Saturday, sending tanks through the streets of a regional capital in the latest jolt to the country's shaky security ahead of national elections.

The U.S. military expressed concern about the violence — which one Afghan commander claimed left 21 fighters dead — but showed no sign of intervening.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Najaf peace negotiations break down

Resurgence of violence feared in holy city

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Negotiations to end the fighting in Najaf broke down Sunday, threatening to spark a resurgence of the fierce clashes between Shiite militants and a combined U.S.-Iraqi force that have plagued this holy city for more than a week.

The chief government negotiator said he decided to quit the talks after three fruitless days, but representatives of militant cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said a deal had been all but reached before interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi personally intervened to quash it.

"It is a conspiracy to commit a big massacre," al-Sadr's top negotiator, Sheikh Ali Smeisim, told the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station.

Al-Sadr

Soon after the talks broke down, a massive Army and Marine force of tanks, Humvees and armored vehicles lined up inside a U.S. military base in Najaf for an assault on the militants, which Allawi reportedly called off.

"We were sitting here waiting for authorization to go clear the militia. We never got that authorization," said Marine Maj. David Holahan. "We'll continue operations as the prime minister... sees fit."

U.S. forces called a halt to a major offensive in the city on Friday to give negotiations a chance. The fighting in Najaf has angered many in Iraq's Shiite majority, complicating a difficult situation for Allawi's U.S.-backed government, which has been keen to show it is in control.

Earlier Saturday, about 10,000 demonstrators from as far away as Baghdad arrived in Najaf to show their solidarity with the Democrats and act as human shields to protect the city and the holy Imam Ali shrine, where the militants have taken ref-

See related stories on Page 10

uge since the fighting started Aug. 5.

Coalition officials reiterated Saturday they would not enter the shrine.

"It is not out intention to go anywhere near the holy sites. We understand their significance to the Shia and we respect the Shia," Maj. Gen. Andrew Graham, deputy commanding general of the Multinational Corps, told The Associated Press. "The irreverence... is [al-Sadr's] and not ours."

During the negotiations, al-Sadr had demanded a U.S. withdrawal from Najaf, the freeing of all Mahdi Army fighters in detention and amnesty for all the fighters in exchange for disarming his followers and pulling them out of the shrine and Najaf's old city, where they have taken refuge, aides said.

After days of discussion — and just hours after Najaf's governor said he believed a breakthrough was imminent — Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie announced the talks were over.

"Our goal was to spare blood, preserve security and for the militias to put down their weapons," he said.

"We have been talking and discussing these matters for three days, but reached no positive conclusion," he said. "After three days, my government thought there was no use in continuing."

Al-Rubaie said he was leaving Najaf but would return for any new talks. However, Qais al-Khazali, al-Sadr's spokesman in Najaf, said a deal had been reached and al-Sadr — who was not in the talks himself — had signed it while "we were surprised that they got instructions from Dr. Allawi to leave."

After nearly two days of quiet during the negotiations, al-Khazali predicted an impending government offensive and appealed to "Arab and Islamic countries to firmly stand up against this massacre."

Al-Sadr's spokesman, blamed the talks' failure on the Americans — who were not participating



Demonstrators took to the streets Saturday during the cease fire called to hold negotiations between the Iraqi government and al-Sadr in Iraqi's holy city of Najaf. However, truce talks aimed at ending the violence broke down.

ing — saying they had refused a demand to pay compensation for the families of those killed in the fighting.

The U.S. military estimates hundreds of insurgents have been killed since the clashes broke out Aug. 5, but the militants dispute the figure. Six Americans have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers, it said.

On Saturday, Interior Minister Falah Hassan al-Najibi blamed the violence on foreign fighters seeking to destabilize Iraq, although a clear majority of Mahdi Army militants are Iraqi.

"The violence" is not being carried out by Iraqis and we are trying to restore Iraq. We are not ready to hand over Iraq to any other country," he said in an interview.

Al-Najibi also announced a daytime curfew for the center of Baghdad to start Sunday as part of efforts to protect the Nation-

al Conference, a major target for insurgents waging an unrelenting campaign of car bombings, mortar attacks, kidnappings and other violence.

The conference, which will be held in the fortified enclave that houses government buildings and the U.S. Embassy, will help elect a 100-member national assembly that is to shepherd the country to its first democratic elections scheduled to be held by the end of January.

It has been beset by problems even before its start. It was to have been held by the end of July by law, but was delayed more than two weeks in an effort to garner wider participation.

Al-Sadr's followers, and the Association of Muslim Scholars, a religious group with links to insurgents, have said they would boycott the unprecedented gathering.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Aug. 13, 930 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 692 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 63 deaths. Italy has reported 18 deaths; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two. Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 792 U.S. servicemen have died — 583 in the result of hostile action and 209 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ None.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ None.

Al-Qaida leadership showing signs of life

BY DAN EGGEN
AND JOHN LANCASTER

The Washington Post

In the more than two years since U.S. forces destroyed al-Qaida's haven and much of its leadership in Afghanistan, many U.S. intelligence officials and terrorism experts had come to believe that other Islamist extremist groups now posed the gravest threat.

From Istanbul to Madrid, local jihadists mounted daring and deadly attacks with little apparent support from Osama bin Laden's crippled network. President Bush and other U.S. officials boasted that two-thirds of al-Qaida's senior leadership had been captured or killed and that those who remained, including bin Laden, were desperate and on the run.

But the wave of arrests and intelligence discoveries in Pakistan in recent weeks that led to a new terrorist network in the United States caught many U.S. officials and outside experts by surprise. It revealed a network of operatives connected to past al-Qaida operations and aligned with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the imprisoned mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The new evidence suggests that al-Qaida is battered but not beaten, and that a motley collection of old hands and recent recruits has

formed a nucleus in Pakistan that is pushing forward with plans for attacks in the United States, according to U.S. and Pakistani officials.

The key questions, according to intelligence officials and experts from both nations, are whether the new guard is capable of coordinating significant terrorist attacks and whether any coherent leadership has emerged to take the place of Mohammed and other senior al-Qaida leaders now in U.S. custody.

U.S. and Pakistani officials said in interviews this week that they are unsure whether bin Laden is still taking an active role in directing plots, although some evidence suggests that he is.

One senior U.S. counterterrorism official, however, said al-Qaida's "resiliency and their ability to reconstitute is truly remarkable."

"Until you put your hands on bin Laden (and deputy Ayman) Zawahiri and the other cast of characters, they are not going to switch gears or change careers. This is what they do," the official said.

"The challenge is to try to define the current al-Qaida and come to some consensus that the al-Qaida that took the embassies in 1998 remains today," the U.S. official added, referring to the bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa. "We just don't know."

The trail leading to the latest revelations about al-Qaida began in Karachi on June 12, with the arrest of Abu Musab Baluchi, a nephew of Mohammed's and a cousin of Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted for carrying out the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. The capture — part of a crackdown after failed assassination attempts on Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani president — led a month later to the arrest of Muhammad Naem Noor Khan, a Pakistani computer engineer who allegedly sent coded communications to al-Qaida operatives around the globe.

Perhaps the most important break from Khan's arrest was the discovery of a laptop and computer disks containing scouting reports and hundreds of photographs of financial institutions in the United States — targets that officials said were exhaustively surveilled by al-Qaida in 2000 and 2001.

The discovery, along with evidence that the files had been accessed as recently as this year, led U.S. officials to raise the terrorism alert status on Aug. 1 for the first time in six months, this time focusing on financial sectors in New York, Washington and Newark.

Juliette Kayeem, head of the national security program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, called the suspects "descendants of the old guard," saying: "There is still this network. It may not be as big or as powerful, but it's still around."

Unfamiliar roads make for cautious convoys

2nd BCT transports hundreds of vehicles across Kuwait's busy highways to temporary base

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait
Day and night, convoys moved hundreds of vehicles from a Kuwaiti port to the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team's (Strikeforce) temporary base last week.

More than 1,800 Strikeforce vehicles left 2nd Infantry Division bases near the South Korean Demilitarized Zone last month where they were loaded onto two U.S. military transport ships at Pusan, South Korea.

While 2nd ID soldiers are used to convoying on busy roads in South Korea, military leaders had to work out detailed plans across unfamiliar Kuwaiti roads.

Before the first convoy rolled from Shuaiba Port on Tuesday, 1st Lt. Robert Ritz of Company D, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment surveyed his route on a terrain model made of bottle tops, engineers' tape, and nails.

Ritz said the model would be used to brief convoy commanders.

"We will discuss dangers on the highway. This is a heavy traffic area, here there are deep ditches on the side of the road to watch out for, here is an easily identifiable terrain feature," he said, pointing out sections of the route.

Soldiers stationed in South Korea train hard on convoys, Ritz said. The deaths of two South Korean schoolgirls hit by a U.S. military vehicle in 2002 resulted in more emphasis on convoy safety within the division, he said.

"We have done a lot of convoys in Korea. Over there we travel on a lot of congested highways. We might have made the move a bunch of times but you don't get complacent," he said.

Getting lost is a particularly bad mistake for a convoy commander, he said.

"You might end up in an area with dangers that you have not been briefed on," he said.

By the time the drivers for the first convoys arrived at the port a



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The first Strikeforce convoy rolls from port in Kuwait headed for Camp Buehring on Tuesday. South Korean vehicles deploying at the same time are assembled in the background.

hot sun was beating down. Soon they sweated in the heat, some in full combat gear including heavy flask jackets.

When an ice truck arrived soldiers quickly surrounded it, broke open bags of ice and emptied them into large orange water coolers that traveled with the convoys.

Next, drivers searched for their vehicles in the marshalling yard, which was packed with both 2nd ID equipment and vehicles from South Korean units also deploying to Iraq.

"We studied the strip maps and looked at the terrain model but it is always different driving it for the first time."

Capt. Andre Takacs

Commander, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, Company A

The soldiers inspected their vehicles to make sure they were roadworthy after the long sea journey.

One of the drivers, Cpl. Travis Bihari of Company B, 5th Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment soon had his Humvee's hood up to inspect the engine.

"It needs some brake fluid. Some stuff evaporated on the boat," he said.

It was not until 6 p.m. that

the first convoy rolled out of the port, joined by a few South Korean vehicles leaving at the same time.

The roads used by the convoys are modern six- and four-lane highways — far better than the potholed, two-lane roads and farm tracks 2nd ID soldiers drive on in South Korea.

The convoys, traveling in groups of up to 100 vehicles, moved through the port suburbs, passing occasional groves of stunted trees planted in the sand.

They passed massive four-story Kuwaiti mansions, on the same scale as Saddam Hussein's palaces in Iraq, rising like pastel-colored movie sets out of the sand. They passed towns resembling U.S. trailer parks that are home to the third-country nationals, who do most of the work in Kuwait.

One convoy passed a collection of caravans, covered in neon lights, where vendors sold everything from food and drink to soccer balls and plastic buckets. A soldier noted the resemblance to

a South Korean red light district.

Kuwaiti motorists, usually wearing traditional flowing Arab robes, appeared oblivious to the military operation, zooming past the convoys at the legal speed limit of 120 kilometers per hour.

As the sun set, the lights of the refineries glowed and flames of methane sputtered from the tops of tall chimneys beside the road.

The convoys left civilization and entered the desert when they crossed the Mutla Rise, a distinctive ridgeline near where Kuwaiti and Iraqi forces clashed during the 1991 Gulf War.

The only signs of life out there were a few Bedouin camps, each marked by a vehicle, a tent and a herd of grazing camels.

Kuwaiti police, riding ahead in their black and white cars with roof-lights flashing, guided the convoys through this strange landscape.

Not everything went smoothly. One convoy commander took a wrong turn soon after leaving the port and ended up in a residential area.

Another was taken on a later

route by the police but was put back on track by Strikeforce commander Col. Gary S. Patton, who moved between convoys in his own vehicle.

One driver, Spc. Jordan McGowan, of 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment — a Muslim — had a hard day guiding a light medium tactical vehicle across the unfamiliar landscape.

"It was hot, long and very tiring while driving," said the young soldier, who drank six liters of water during the day.

McGowan, who had not left Udairi Range and Camp Buehring since arriving in Kuwait before the convoy, was struck by the difference between Kuwait and his humid, green home state of Virginia.

Capt. Andre Takacs, who commands 1-9's Company A, led the first convoy to leave the port, said the journey was a challenge.

"We studied the strip maps and looked at the terrain model but it is always different driving it for the first time," he said.

Takacs said the convoy was particularly difficult to command because he was working with soldiers from other units not used to his leadership style.

The Kuwaiti police guiding the soldiers appeared to enjoy the soldiers' company but the language barrier made communication difficult at times, something soldiers are used to in South Korea.

One police officer particularly friendly, showing Takacs his new state of the art cell phone featuring a display of a scantily clad Arab woman, giving him a pen "to remember me by" and throwing Patton a bag of potato chips.

When the Strikeforce commander gave the chips to two of his Kuwaiti law enforcement told them: "I love you."

"The machine is finished," he said, when it came time to leave.

"The mission is finished," he said, when it came time to leave.

"Yes, you must leave California and don't speak good English?" the policeman replied as the convoy left for the final leg of its journey, arriving at Camp Buehring shortly before midnight.

Strikeforce commander Col. Gary S.

Patton, left, plans the convoys of 2nd ID equipment with 2nd Lt. David Wood of Headquarters Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment using a terrain model made of bottle tops, tape and nails.

Patton, left, plans the convoys of 2nd ID equipment with 2nd Lt. David Wood of Headquarters Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment using a terrain model made of bottle tops, tape and nails.

Another was taken on a later

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsp@stripes.osd.mil



A Kuwaiti police officer shows off a new cell phone to Capt. Andre Takacs, who commands Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment. Local police led 2nd ID soldiers during convoys this week.

Steely glare



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Sgt. Walter Crump of the 299th Forward Support Battalion cuts holes in a quarter-inch steel plate at Forward Operating Base Dagger near Tikrit, Iraq. The plates, forged from armor once used to protect U.S. Army vehicles, instead will be affixed to leaky valves at a Tigris River water plant, a Task Force Danger spokesman said. The 299th FSB's home base is in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Report: Stryker weight limits range of C-130

BY THOMAS E. RICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Army's new medium-weight armored vehicle, the Stryker, weighs so much that it curtails the range of C-130 military cargo aircraft that carry it and under certain conditions make it impossible for the planes to take off, a new report for Congress found.

"The Stryker's average weight of 38,000 pounds — along with other factors such as added equipment and less-than-ideal flight conditions — significantly limits the C-130's flight range and reduces the size force that could be deployed," said the Government Accountability Office, the watchdog arm of Congress.

Indeed, the report said, a C-130 with an average-weight Stryker wouldn't even be able to take off from higher elevations in Afghanistan, such as Bagram or Kabul, during daylight hours in summer.

The findings support the claims of critics that the eight-wheeled Stryker — now in use in Iraq — won't be able to meet the original goal of being able to roll into a C-130, be flown

1,000 miles and leave the plane immediately able to engage in combat. When 2,000 pounds of associated equipment such as ammunition is loaded into the aircraft with the typical Stryker vehicle, the report said, the C-130's range is about 500 miles — and much less if heavier equipment is loaded. The report noted that the Army subsequently has dropped that 1,000-mile range requirement for the system.

The Stryker program — expected to have a total cost of \$8.7 billion for acquiring about 1,800 vehicles — is the centerpiece of the Army's controversial attempt in recent years to move away from heavy, tank-oriented forces and become more agile, both in getting to the battlefield and in maneuvering on it. Critics, however, worry that the Stryker is too vulnerable to enemy fire, and that attempts to strengthen it would decrease its ability to be deployed.

Indeed, two years ago, those critics had gained so much attention that the Army put on a demonstration in which four of the combat vehicles were airlifted to Andrews Air Force Base. Before

an audience that included one leading skeptic, former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), a C-130 pulled up in front of a hangar, dropped its ramp, and off-loaded a Stryker and all its gear, plus two crewmembers and nine infantrymen, in less than 10 minutes.

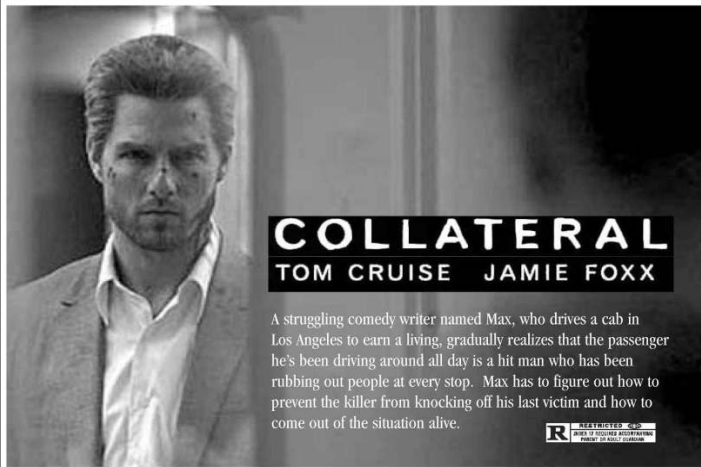
But the GAO report found that the weight of the Stryker and its gear and crew make such a scenario unlikely in a real combat deployment, because it probably would be necessary to move much of the "equipment, ammunition, fuel, personnel and armor on separate aircraft." After being unloaded from the C-130s, the Strykers then would be outfitted with their armor and prepared for combat.

Asked what he now thinks of the October 2002 demonstration at Andrews, in light of the GAO findings, Gingrich was bitterly critical of the Army, calling it "a cheap stunt."

"It was a nice piece of public deception," Gingrich said. "The senior Army deliberately misled the Congress and the secretary of defense about air transportability."

An Army spokesman didn't have any immediate comment on the GAO report.

Coming to your FIRSTRUN Theater!



A struggling comedy writer named Max, who drives a cab in Los Angeles to earn a living, gradually realizes that the passenger he's been driving around all day is a hit man who has been rubbing out people at every stop. Max has to figure out how to prevent the killer from knocking off his last victim and how to come out of the situation alive.



AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

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COLLATERAL

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

Adana	1-7 Oct
Arano	24-30 Sep
Bahenhausen	24-30 Sep
Bahad	20-26 Aug
Bamberg	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Baumholder	10-16 Sep
Bitburg	24-30 Sep
Camp Doha	10-16 Sep
Darmstadt	17-23 Sep
Daxheim	3-9 Sep
Friedberg	1-7 Oct
Giebelstadt	17-23 Sep
Grafenwehr	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Hansa	20-26 Aug
Heidelberg	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Hohenfels	3-9 Sep
Kitzingen	10-16 Sep
Kosovo	15-21 Oct
Lakenheath	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Mannheim	20-26 Aug
Mildenhall	20-26 Aug
Ramstein Hercules	3-9 Sep
Ramstein Nightingale	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Reichs Main	10-16 Sep
Spangdahlem	17-23 Sep
Tuzla	1-7 Oct
Valhingen	3-9 Sep
Vicenza	1-7 Oct
Vittek	20-26 Aug
Vogelweh	20-26 Aug
Wiesbaden	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Wuerzburg	20-26 Aug

AAFES THEATERS

Business is booming at Baumholder

1st AD troops are back, and they've got money to burn

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — On Wednesday, Staff Sgt. Patrick Piper went to the Baumholder PowerZone and plunked down \$1,699 for his brand new, 52-inch Samsung television.

The TV goes to his off-post house, along with a Gold's Gym weight set, a barbecue grill, a set of patio furniture and a computer. Oh, and two televisions — one for a daughter, one for a son — along with a DVD player.

Piper — with Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion — is one of more than 13,000 1st Armored Division soldiers newly back from Iraq with thousands of dollars in hardship and incentive pay from their 15-month deployment.

Their return is fueling a major economic boom that will reverberate through 1st AD bases across Germany through Christmas, say Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials.

The troops' return unleashes "pent-up demand" after soldiers in the field and spouses back home deferred big purchases during the deployment, said Gary W. Burton, AAFES regional general manager, Kaiserslautern Military Community.

Now, that demand has been unleashed on travel agencies, car rentals, clubs and restaurants. But nowhere is it more evident than at AAFES' PowerZone electronics stores.

As Piper waited Wednesday afternoon for AAFES employees to come up with a giant truck to deliver his giant television, soldiers stood quietly in line with hands full of DVDs, video games, digital cameras and assorted electronic gear.

Had he not gotten thousands of dollars over his base pay in Iraq — including an extra \$1,000 per month during the 3-month extension — he probably would have had to spread his two-week spending spree over two years, Piper said.

Piper earned his money old-fashioned way — he nearly got killed.

During a convoy through downtown Baghdad, an attack knocked



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Had he not gotten multiple deployment bonuses and incentives, Staff Sgt. Patrick Piper says he would have had to spread out over two years the purchases he made over the last two weeks. Returning soldiers, such as Piper, drove up July sales at the Baumholder PowerZone by more than 500 percent over July 2003.

off his Kevlar body armor and left him unconscious. Asked whether his newfound buying power is worth extra months in Iraq, including a brush with death, Piper paused for a few long seconds.

Then he nodded his head. "Yeah, it was worth it."

At 27, he's doing pretty well, and he can give his wife, Johnetta, and his four children — Meko, 11, Little Pat, 9, Monika, 8, and Nyah, 3 — the material things he didn't have.

"I'll always give my kids more than I have. I want them to have it better than I had it," Piper said.

The return of Baumholder's 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery units — about 5,000 soldiers — to the base in late June changed business overnight.

"They came in here buying

plasma TVs. Big screen TVs. Surround sound. Everything they could get their hands on," said Debra Melton, Baumholder PowerZone manager. "They'd come to the checkout with 30 DVDs at one time. Exercise equipment."

It's common for soldiers to pay cash for \$1,700 TVs, the manager said.

The 1st AD's return translated into a Baumholder PowerZone gross sales increase of 515 percent — to \$1,064,429 from \$206,421 — in July compared to July 2003, when all troops were deployed, according to figures supplied by AAFES.

Auto rentals at AAFES' Six franchise were up 478 percent for the same period, while auto sales rose 933 percent.

Outside the gates of H.D. Smith Barracks, some local businesses are also benefiting.

"I was so full [of clients] I didn't know where my head was," said Jay Willis, travel agent at Anja's Travel Agency in downtown Baumholder. During one day alone, she took in 25,000 euros in cash, and a total of about 35,000 euros including credit card transactions, Willis said. Soldiers were generous, she added, giving her 3,500 euros in tips.

More than 90 percent of soldiers bought airline tickets to the United States, Willis said. "Only a few... wanted trips to Spain, plac-



Though Monique Webb and her husband, Spc. Colin Webb, are saving a significant portion of the money he made during his deployment, they're also indulging in some of the finer things in life, like an expensive Italian-made sofa.

es like that."

Even though cash registers around Baumholder were ringing nonstop Wednesday afternoon, some shoppers were trying to hold on to at least part of their windfall.

At the PowerZone, Monique Webb, 22, said she and her husband, Spc. Colin Webb, 23, 40th Engineers Battalion (Combat), saved \$6,000 in only three months after putting on their financial brakes — money to tide them over when Colin Webb leaves the Army in seven months. She and her husband would have saved more had it not been for a vehicle accident that sent Colin Webb back to Germany for a few months with a broken arm, and the temptations of the downrange Base Exchange, according to Monique Webb.

While he was in Iraq, "He'd say, 'Where'd the money go?' And I'd say, 'You spent \$800 every paycheck buying DVDs!'"

The savings started piling up after they agreed that both would have to sign off on every purchase over \$20, Monique Webb said. Colin Webb started limiting himself to three magazines per month from the PX in Iraq, and eating MREs instead of running to the base Burger King, his wife said.

Part of the deployment earnings will pay for their separation from the Army, ETS, but much of it is going for two major purchases — a 10,000 euro Italian couch for her, and a high-end computer for him that will cost between \$6,500 and \$8,000, Monique Webb said.

"We have a really bad habit" of liking the finer things in life," she said.

The extra money from the Iraq deployment has allowed soldiers to shop in rarified price ranges.

Though the AAFES car sales in Baumholder had a nearly 1,000 percent sales increase, some sol-

Today, Stars and Stripes launches the first in an occasional series of stories on the return of the 1st Armored Division to bases in Germany.

Stars and Stripes will examine how the 15-month deployment to Iraq changed soldiers, their families, communities and the institution of the Army itself.

diers bypassed AAFES' modestly priced Chevs, Chryslers and Fords for high-end German cars, said Gary Pasvogel, Baumholder's main AAFES store manager. "Those Porsche Cayennes [sport-utility vehicles] you see in the parking lot — some of those belong to soldiers," Pasvogel said.

Ironically, while many companies outside Baumholder's gates — especially civilian car rentals — told Stars and Stripes that business has doubled or tripled since the troops returned, the impact on the local BMW dealer is limited.

Soldiers and officers laying out big money for BMWs was to take them home, said Rolf Kuhn, the company's manager. But BMW won't allow Auto-Albert to sell cars built to American emissions and impact specifications, Kuhn said.

"But I can't sell [U.S. specification cars] to Germans," he said, "so it's not worth it."

Instead, Kuhn sends shoppers to Pentagon Car Sales in nearby Kaiserslautern.

Since July 1, Pentagon Car Sales has seen a 70 percent increase in BMW sales compared to the same period last year, said Terry Haver-

ty, a sales manager.

"It's night and day, actually," Haver-

ty said. He attributes most of the increase to troops coming home, particularly to nearby Baumholder, he said. Most are buying 2005 models. One soldier told him the only things guys talked about in Iraq were girls and cars, Haver-

ty said. "A lot of them planned that when they got back they would do something that they could never do before," he said. "A lot of them didn't know what was going to happen next while they were down there. So it's a reward for themselves or for their wives."

Somewhat forgotten in the spending frenzy is just how bad business was while troops were gone.

As impressive as sales increases seem, customers have to understand that for the 15 months the AD bases stood empty, AAFES stores took huge losses while trying to retain staff until units returned, AAFES manager Burton said.

No matter how good sales are at the moment, "we'll never make up the ground we lost," Burton said.

"Never."

Marni McEntee contributed to this story. E-mail: Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.estrp.com, dml

The news by the numbers

The numbers at various 1st Armored Division bases:

■ **Baumholder:** Gross PowerZone sales for July 2004 were \$1,064,429, a 515 percent increase over July 2003 sales of \$206,421.

■ **Mainz-Kastell:** Gross PowerZone sales for July 2004 were \$1,274,270, a 147 percent increase over July 2003 sales of \$867,984.

■ **Friedberg:** Gross PowerZone sales for July 2004 were \$228,002, a 396 percent increase over July 2003 sales of \$57,579.

Auto sales at Baumholder increased 933 percent to 56 cars during July 2004 from six cars sold in July 2003.

Baumholder car rentals increased nearly 478 percent to 507 rentals for July 2004, up from 106 rentals in July 2003.

— Stars and Stripes



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Stores brace for Christmas-like demand

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — The return of 13,000 1st Armored Division soldiers from 15 months in Iraq has already produced an economic resurgence.

This resurgence — after more than a year of empty bases — is just the beginning, say Army and Air Force Exchange Service executives. Extra money soldiers earned in Iraq will continue to flow into AAFES and the surrounding communities through Christmas.

Anticipating a flood of soldiers and a tidal wave of money, stores on 1st AD bases were on the highest possible alert: Code Christmas.

"I came up from Ramstein — and I've seen Christmas at Ramstein," said Debra Melton, Baumholder's PowerZone manager, alluding to the giant Air Force base just south of Baumholder. "This was [bigger] than Christmas at Ramstein or Christmas at any retail place."

Sales boomed at first when 1st AD soldiers returned, then flattened out as most went on 30-day block leave, said Gary W. Burton, AAFES regional general manager, Kaiserslautern Military Community.

When they return from leave, sales will pick up through the fall, Burton said. That second boom will reach bases near 1st AD bases, such as Ramstein and Kaiserslautern, where shoppers from Baumholder often travel to use the larger base exchanges/post exchanges, bookstores and other retail outlets.

Consumers typically start thinking about Christmas shopping in October, and Burton anticipates soldiers, after spending the 2003 holiday season in Iraq, will view 2004 as special — and splurge a bit on gifts.

That's the obvious part. Far more subtle retail strategies and



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

It's all about finding out what customers want, says Debra Melton, manager at the Baumholder PowerZone. "This was [bigger] than Christmas at Ramstein or Christmas at any retail place," she said of the crush of spending anticipated from returning 1st Armored Division soldiers.

management went into preparing stores.

Preparations for the return of money-laden soldiers and officers began months beforehand, and the BX and PowerZone stores soldiers left in April and May of 2003 were not the stores they came back to 15 months later.

Countless details went into getting retail operations from military uniform sales to barbershops ready for the crush of business, AAFES executive say.

Baumholder's Post Exchange brought in an extra \$2 million in inventory. PowerZone employees piled up merchandise, such as surround-sound systems, and big sellers, such as 65-inch JVC televisions, in the aisles just as they do at Christmas, said Gary Pasvogel, Baumholder's main AAFES store manager.

In a way, say AAFES employees and executives, it's easier anticipating what returning soldiers would want — electronics and other big-ticket items — than

stocking the basics troops may not even realize they need until they need it, such as ironing boards and irons, ashtrays and garbage can liners.

Tracking buying patterns in order to have the stock customers want "is more an art than a science," Burton said. AAFES executives even looked at downrange purchasing habits in order to judge what kinds of demand were already satisfied.

Baumholder also was able to draw on sales data collected at other exchanges that had been

through redeployments, such as the 133rd Airborne Brigade's return to Vicenza, Italy, Pasvogel said.

One of the biggest challenges was staffing.

Pasvogel was able to get permission from Lt. Col. Todd Buchs, 22nd Base Support Battalion commander, to bring up nine Bosnian workers from the Eagle Base exchange.

"Without them, we couldn't have kept this place running," Pasvogel said.

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AP photos

An American soldier frisks an Iraqi man Thursday at a security checkpoint in Iraq. Going about their daily duties in a war zone earns servicemembers more money in their paychecks — money some are itching to spend when their deployments end.

Iraq deployments land more money in paychecks

In Iraq, soldiers and officers earn substantially more than their base pay, with bonuses and incentives often doubling earnings. This extra earning power is driving spending sprees at bases and towns where 1st Armored Division troops are returning after 15 months in Iraq.

For example, an Army sergeant, or pay grade E-5, with five years of service earns a basic pay of \$1,991 per month, which is tax free while in a war zone.

During the Iraq deployment, that sergeant received an extra:

- \$100 per month in hardship duty pay.
- \$225 per month for 12 months in hostile fire pay.
- \$250 per month for 12 months in family separation allowance.
- \$1,000 per month for three months after the division was extended in March.

The extension pay includes



A 1st Cavalry soldier patrols in a Humvee in Baghdad last week.

\$200 in hardship duty pay (above the \$100 already being paid) and \$800 in assignment incentive pay.

If that sergeant re-enlists between March 18 and Sept. 18 — agreeing to another deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait — he or she could get up to \$5,000, paid retroactively. This is separate from any re-enlistment

based on military occupation skills, or MOS.

So, the sergeant could come back from 15 months of deployment with more than \$11,000 in extra pay, in addition to the \$35,838 he or she would have earned in base pay, and more than \$16,000 extra pay with re-enlistment.

— Stars and Stripes

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Ready game of hide-and-seek in Najaf

Vast cemetery offers militants plenty of chances to conceal attacks

By TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — The platoon leader's call came crackling over Charlie Company radios: "We're taking RPG fire, 800 meters! Small arms fire, 300 meters!"

With night falling, the soldiers of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division were being attacked again by militants creeping tombstone by tombstone toward them in Najaf's sprawling cemetery, a killing field neither side has managed to secure in more than a week of sporadic fighting.

"You have to give them credit," Sgt. 1st Class Mike Dewilde said after a brief firefight with insurgents Thursday in a cemetery zone. "They do an amazing amount with what little they have."

The men of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment had been patrolling a dusty road that cuts into the graveyard's heart for eight hours to prevent militants loyal to firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr from moving north.

When pockets of al-Sadr fighters got too close, they called in Apache helicopter gunships and pressed forward with only the faintest resistance, then pulled back.

Mostly, it was quiet, and Charlie Company commander Capt. Patrick McFall spent a lot of time gazing over a computerized satellite image of the graveyard in his armored Humvee.

Near dusk, however, the crackle of gunfire and explosions rang out again.



American soldiers aboard a Bradley armored vehicle move toward militant positions Thursday in the expansive cemetery in the holy Shiite city of Najaf, Iraq. Fighting in the cemetery offered anti-American fighters plenty of hiding places from which to stage attacks on troops and escape safely.

Several Bradley fighting vehicles and half a dozen Humvees sped up to a deserted intersection on the cemetery's northeastern edge, scanning the tombstone-filled horizon with binoculars and gun turrets.

Dewilde, leader of the 3rd Platoon, told McFall that eight men with rocket-propelled grenades and "multiple snipers" had been spotted in the graveyard and buildings rising behind it near the gold-domed Imam Ali shrine.

U.S. commanders are under strict orders to avoid damaging the

shrine for fear of enraging Iraq's Shiite majority and Shiites worldwide.

For that reason, they maintain positions in the cemetery about 800 yards away.

Sgt. Lyle Pete, 24, of Gardnerville, Nev., said he'd seen three men repeatedly firing from a building near the shrine. "They jump out and fire RPGs and jump back inside," he said.

"This is the second time today we've been fired from that location," said 30-year-old McFall of Harker Heights, Texas.

With the crackle of light gunfire echoing through the graveyard, a mortar round thundered behind the men, then an RPG round exploded to their front. Smoke rose from the blasts.

A small infantry unit of about 15 men scrambled forward looking for firing positions. Some lay in the middle of a small path leading south.

A Bradley positioned in the road started pumping thunderous rounds from its 25 mm cannon, and gunners perched on four machine-gun mounted Humvees began shooting.

A three-man team led by Dewilde ran up the steps of a mausoleum whose square, walled-in concrete roof provided ideal cover. They laid rifles across the upper edge of the wall and began shooting.

After a few minutes, orders came to move ahead. Laden in heavy body armor and helmets, the infantrymen jogged behind their huge Bradley as it pushed further into the cemetery. Advancing slowly, they ducked behind tombs and poked flashlights mounted on their guns down crypts.

There was no way to know where the militants were.

"The problem is these guys can hide behind anything out here," said Sgt. Joel Klootwyk of Knoxville, Iowa, poking a gun over a cemetery wall. "You gotta wait for them to shoot before you know where they're at."

When Dewilde ordered his men to head back, they began poking flashlights into dark tombs again. Most had metal doors that led to small rooms.

Dewilde said his platoon had been searching crypts for four days.

"We've found cigarettes still burning, warm tea still in the cups," he said.

They've also found rockets and ammunition left behind.

As a quiet night set in, the U.S. troops climbed back onto rooftops, surveying the cemetery through the green glow of night-vision goggles.

"You gotta give 'em credit," Dewilde said. "They got guts."

Insurgency won't postpone Iraqi National Conference

By JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The head of Iraq's delayed National Conference said Saturday that the violence raging in Shiite areas of the country would not affect the crucial gathering that is to start Sunday.

"This is a perfect time for the conference to discuss the current problems and find solutions," Fuad Masoum told journalists.

The gathering of 1,000 delegates will help elect a 100-member national assembly that is to shepherd the country to its first democratic elections scheduled to be held by the end of January.

The conference was to have been held by the end of July under a law passed by the outgoing U.S. occupation authority, but many key factions said they would boycott the meeting and some of the country's multiethnic provinces had difficulty in choosing slates of delegates.

Conference organizers said two weeks ago they were delaying the meeting at the request of the United Nations, which wanted to try to persuade more factions to participate.

However, the followers of Muqtada al-Sadr, who are currently fighting U.S. and Iraqi forces in the southern city of Najaf, have said they would continue to boycott the meeting.

The Association of Muslim Scholars, a religious group with links to insurgents, also said it would not attend because of the interim government's reliance on the U.S.-led coalition.

Despite the boycotts, 70 different groups have agreed to participate, Masoum said.

In a country beset by a nearly 16-month violent insurgency, the conference will be a major target for angry militants.

The gathering will take place within the Green Zone, a restricted area in Baghdad home to the Iraqi government and the U.S. and British embassies. Visiting delegates will stay in Baghdad, either in hotels or with relatives.

Al-Sadr's uprising has spread to other Shiite strongholds in Iraq, exacerbating an already volatile security environment. But delegates coming to Baghdad from different corners of the country said they would not be deterred by the unraveling security situation.

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GIs lend disabled Iraqi kids a helping hand

Soldiers move needy institute in Baghdad to one of Saddam's 'safe houses'

BY JOHN KOOPMAN

San Francisco Chronicle

BAGHDAD — It's moving day at the Dina Institute.

A big, green U.S. Army truck pulls up to the curb. Soldiers in full battle dress — helmets, body armor, automatic weapons — jump out and start loading the truck like college students moving into a new dorm.

They file into a small, cramped concrete-and-tile house. In the rooms, kids of various ages and infirmities sit, stand or crawl.

The children have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and a host of other developmental disabilities.

Army Capt. Evans Hanson, from a nearby field artillery unit, spots a young man walking in a sideways, awkward gait and extends a hand.

"Hi, buddy. Remember me?"

The boy smiles and offers his hand for a limp shake.

The soldiers are here to move the institute to a new home more than twice as big, in a nicer neighborhood, with no rent.

The Army's good deed might just keep the Dina Institute afloat.

The private school cares for more than 60 children, all of whom have slight to se-

"It's very difficult for these children in Iraq, if they have no place to go."

Inam Jawad
headmistress of the Dina Institute

vere disabilities. Some live there, others come for the day. There are far too many children, but the headmistress, Inam Jawad, can't say no.

"It's very difficult for these children in Iraq, if they have no place to go," she said through an interpreter.

The institute was on the verge of collapse a couple of months ago, with too many children and rent three months overdue. The prospect of sending kids home or closing altogether loomed.

Then soldiers from Battery A of the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, knocked at the door.

The unit commander, Capt. Mike Burgoyne, had heard about the institute from local leaders and decided to check it out. Jawad told him the institute had no money, and that food was scarce. They had had no meat for more than a month.

Moved to action by what he had witnessed, Burgoyne worked with Hanson, the battalion's civil affairs officer, to tap the Army's civil affairs funds and give the institute \$3,000. They brought a pallet loaded with food and supplies.

They talked to the Ministry of Health, which found a nongovernment group called Muslim Hands to sponsor the institute.

The London-based organization tries to raise money and find other support for the school.

"What they really needed was a bigger, better place to stay," Hanson said.

That's where Saddam Hussein comes in.

A couple of blocks away, in a well-to-do neighborhood on a tree-lined street, is a house that used to belong to one of Hussein's wives. It was described as one of his hideaways, a "safe house."

These days, the house technically belongs to the government, and in Iraq, a private organization can squat in a government-owned building if no one else takes control of it.

There's paperwork to do, and authorization to get, but the soldiers have an influential contact in the ministry, and the man agreed to help out. So the Dina Institute got a new home.

The institute is named after Jawad's daughter, who is mentally retarded.

Jawad lost her husband in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s and raised their two children as best she could. She put Dina in a government school at first, but she figured she could do a better job, so she started her own school.

Over the years, people heard about it and brought their developmentally disabled children to her. Some pay tuition. Some don't or can't. Jawad takes them anyway.

That's how the institute's enrollment exceeded 60, when she was supposed to have only 30.

"I love my daughter very much, and I want the best for her," she said. "I look at the other kids the same way."

The Army spends a lot of time in the neighborhoods, trying to help people renovate schools and make other improvements. Moving day was blazing hot. Soldiers are forbidden to remove their protective gear, and senior officers constantly worry about shootings and bombings, so the men in their overheated body armor sweated as they worked.

A couple of guys got on the back of the truck and loaded furniture handed up by soldiers and Iraqis laboring side-by-side on the street.

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Aide: Bush to announce overhaul plans

Up to 70,000 troops likely would be relocated from Europe, Pacific



LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Spec. John Renna, left, and Staff Sgt. Ron Floyd, right, of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, train during the Bulwark '04 exercise at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. The Eastern European nation is among those considered for smaller "hilly pad" bases under the planned transformation.

Significant realignment will not be quick process

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — If President Bush says anything new on Monday about changes to the U.S. military's global posture, it would simply be the next step in a process that would take years, according to two Europe-based military spokesmen.

"EUCOM, like the other unified commands, has submitted its recommendations last year with respect to the global posture review," said Lt. Cmdr. Rick Haupt, a spokesman for the Stuttgart-based U.S. European Command, or EUCOM. "We're awaiting the outcome of the decision-making process in Washington."

Haupt declined to speculate on what the president might say during his speech on Monday to the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati. The Pentagon has scheduled a briefing for reporters on Monday afternoon to discuss the topic.

A White House official told Stars and Stripes that the president is expected to announce his plan to pull up to 70,000 U.S. troops out of Europe and Asia.

Col. Roger King, a spokesman for Heidelberg, Germany-based U.S. Army Europe, said he did not expect the president would be revealing anything new or specific that would immediately affect U.S. military personnel in Europe.

"This is just a continuation of

the process that's been going on for a while," King said.

However, King said it would be a mistake to link events such as the recent closing of the U.S. base at Bad Aibling, Germany, and deactivation of Wackenheim, Germany-based 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery to the larger global picture.

"You've got closings and consolidations that go on in our normal way of doing business," King said.

As proof that vast changes were not imminent in Europe, a U.S. military official in Europe familiar with the transformation process noted that no money was earmarked for transformation in next year's Department of Defense budget. The \$417.5 billion spending bill was approved by Congress and signed into law by the president earlier this month.

The official, who spoke to Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity, said the Pentagon is determining how much it will cost the U.S. military to move many of its troops and assets to eastern Europe and Africa as well as back to the United States.

Specific transformation-related plans for 2006-2011 and their costs would start to "be put together this winter," to the best of my knowledge," the official said.

All the plans, he added, are contingent on Congress' approval and financing and on successful negotiations with current and potential future host nations.

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BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

President Bush this week will announce plans to pull up to 70,000 U.S. troops out of Europe and Asia as part of a massive overhaul of U.S. forces overseas, according to a White House official.

Bush is expected to announce the changes Monday at a campaign speech to the Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati.

Currently, there are about 106,000 active-duty military members based in Europe.

About 70,000 of them are stationed in Germany, which is expected to take the lion's share of cuts, the official said. More than 15,000 U.S. troops based in Europe currently are deployed to Iraq, with an additional 15,000 having just returned from combat duty.

Another 100,000 troops are based in the Pacific, with main troop hubs in South Korea, Okinawa and mainland Japan.

"Next week, the president will be talking about new initiatives regarding the military," the White House official said. The initiatives, the aide said, are designed to "improve our capability to defend ourselves and our allies while easing the burden on the military and their families."

First Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division — which form the bulk of the Army's some 60,000 troops in Europe — are expected to relocate to the States as part of the overhaul. As part of the restructuring, some 100,000 family members and Defense Department civilians will return to the States as well, the White House official said.

Remaining forces in Europe are expected to be consolidated around the Ramstein military hub in western Germany and the Army's sophisticated training ranges in the Bavarian region of southeastern Germany.

A mobile infantry force equipped with the new light-armored Stryker vehicles is expected to be assigned to Grafenwöhr, Germany, where the Army is building facilities for a brigade-sized unit. Aviano Air Base in northern Italy also is expected to play a greater role for both Army and Air Force units.

Meanwhile, the Navy's European headquarters, located in London since the World War II, will be moved to Naples, which already is home to 6th Fleet, according to a report Saturday in London's Financial Times.

Naval Forces Europe spokesman Capt. Gordon Hume, reached last week, wouldn't comment on

any pending plans for the Navy. U.S. European Commander Marine Gen. James Jones has proposed under his "transformation plan" that those units cut from the permanent rolls in Western Europe would be replaced by smaller rotational forces that would be deployed to "hilly pad" bases in Eastern Europe and Africa.

With operations in Iraq and Afghanistan already stretching the military thin, it's unclear how many stateside forces would be available for rotational duty to EUCOM.

Regardless, for more than a year U.S. military officials have been scouting potential bases in Eastern Europe, notably Poland and Romania, as well as several countries in northern Africa. The idea, Jones has argued, is to position forces closer to potential hot spots.

Jones has said any new bases will be relatively small in size and population — although capable of expanding as needs arise — and generally will not accommodate family members.

The proposed changes would not involve the building of large, major operations bases, such as Ramstein, but rather would rely on smaller, Spartan facilities to launch strikes against terrorists and provide austere training grounds.

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W W W . J O I N M O A A . O R G

Stuttgart jazzes up marathon

Runners, walkers, individuals and teams wanted for September event

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Stuttgart 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest has a new name but the same money-raising goal.

"Our primary purpose is for the kids of this community," said Petty Officer 1st Class Da Niel Schneider.

"We're trying to make it a better place for them so they can enjoy their time over here."

Schneider, president of the event, said that last year's marathon raised \$14,500, which was distributed to 13 different Stuttgart-area groups, including the teen center, the high school volleyball team and a local swim club.

Teams or individuals from Kaiserslautern, Heidelberg and other military communities are invited to participate, too.

But she noted that the proceeds would stay in Stuttgart.

The runners and walkers raise money by buying a commemorative T-shirt or sweatshirt.



Kids are invited to join in a marathon of activities such as face-painting and a bouncing castle.

"Music Fest" was added to the event's name to help highlight the four bands have so far signed up to play: country musician Barry Foley, modern rockers Bapty, oldies and contemporary act Kitchen Pass, and oldies and classic rock band American Pie.

"Our primary purpose is for the kids of this community."

**Petty Officer 1st Class
Da Niel Schneider**
President of the 15th
annual Stuttgart 24-Hour
Marathon and Music Fest

Members of the local American Legion will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. Saturday morning they will be preparing pancake breakfasts.

Beverages will be available including kegs of beer. Proceeds go to the youth groups.

The marathon is held on the track at Huskey Field, Patch Barracks, and most of the activities take place on the football field inside the track.

Marathon information

What: 15th annual Stuttgart 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest

When: Noon, Sept. 10
Where: Huskey Field, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany

Who: Open to all DOD ID-card holders

Cost: \$12 for kids T-shirt, \$16 for adult T-shirt, \$25 for sweatshirt.

More information: www.stuttgart-community-marathon.com; Da Niel Schneider at DSN 430-6501; Tim Brown at tbrown@novainternational.com

Schneider said that about 1,000 people participated in 2003, including more than 20 teams of walkers and runners. Trophies are awarded for various team accomplishments.

A few individuals actually ran or walked for the entire 24 hours.

Schneider more young people from local sports teams would join in this year, since they are the ones who could potentially benefit.

email Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.ustripes.osd.mil

Bahrain still shut to Navy families

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. State Department rescinded a travel advisory Wednesday regarding travel to Bahrain, but families of U.S. Navy personnel and Department of Defense civilians will not be allowed to return there.

U.S. Navy Lt. Bill Speaks said family members were told to leave the area because of the general security situation in the region, not just the State Department warning issued in early July.

"That travel advisory was not the only reason we made that decision," Speaks, a spokesman for the Fifth Fleet, said Friday afternoon from Bahrain.

The Navy moved nearly 1,000 dependents from the tiny nation in the Persian Gulf following a Pentagon order for a "temporary relocation" on July 2. It was to last 30 days but has gone beyond that point with no clue of when it will end.

"At this time, DOD has not made a decision to return family members here," Speaks said in a telephone interview.

The State Department issued a travel advisory at the same time advising private U.S. citizens not to travel to the country. It also suggested that anyone already in the country should consider getting out.

About 4,500 military personnel are stationed in Bahrain, which is also home to a Department of Defense Dependent School with about 700 students.

Speaks said there is no way to guess when a decision to allow family members to return might be made.

"All I can tell you is, it is a situation that we're continuously monitoring and evaluating," he said.

email Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.ustripes.osd.mil

High school 101

Heidelberg High School will be hosting a "Ninth Grade Academy" on Sept. 2 for all incoming freshmen.

The session, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., is designed to help ease the transition from middle school to high school and to give students information that will help them be successful in high school, according to a school news release. Students will also meet some of their new teachers.

Parents are then welcome to attend the new student orientation, starting at 1 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 370-8004 or commercial 06221-39-0587.

From staff reports

Ore. plant to burn chemical weapons

The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — An Eastern Oregon incinerator got the go-ahead Friday to start destroying part of the nation's stockpile of Cold War-Era chemical weapons.

After considering the results of three years of testing, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission voted 4-0 in Hermiston to allow the burning to begin.

Operations start ramping up on Wednesday, when 15 rockets loaded with the nerve agent GB sarin are scheduled to be removed from a storage igloo at the Umatilla Chemical Depot outside Hermiston. The rockets will be loaded onto a truck, and carried with a containment cylinder inside the adjoining incinerator, said U.S. Army spokeswoman Mary Binder.

One rocket is to be chopped, drained, and run through a special furnace on Thursday. Aside from residue on rockets, the deadly liquid nerve agent will not begin going through a high-temperature furnace for about a month, when a sufficient amount is built up in a storage tank, Binder said.

Commission Chairman Mark Reeve noted that opponents who would prefer the weapons be destroyed with a chemical neutralization process, as is being done in one site in Maryland, have filed a motion for an injunction to stop the incinerator from firing up, which will be heard on Monday.



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Charley flattens Fla.; at least 15 dead

Massive damage, power outages plague state as storm moves into Carolinas

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Hurricane Charley's devastating tear across Florida flattened oceanfront homes, killed at least 15 people and left thousands more homeless before the weakened storm pushed north and struck the Carolinas on Saturday.

It was the strongest storm to strike Florida in a dozen years, knocking out electrical service to an estimated 2 million homes and businesses as it crossed from the southwest coast at Punta Gorda to the Atlantic at Daytona Beach.

"I could hear the nails coming out of the roof. The walls were shaking violently, back and forth, back and forth. It was just the most amazing and terrifying thing," said Anne Correia, who spent two hours in a closet in her Punta Gorda apartment.

Charley's generally northward course took it across open ocean, missing the westward curving shore of Georgia, before it made landfall for a second time on South Carolina's Grand Strand resort region and moved into North Carolina.

By the time it made landfall for a second time on South Carolina's Grand Strand, the area was nearly empty after a mandatory evacuation of some of the area's 180,000 tourists and residents.

The storm still packed wind of 75 mph, considerably weaker than its sustained



SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE/AP

speed of 145 mph Friday, but still enough to classify it as a hurricane.

Ten deaths had been confirmed in Charlotte County, Fla., said Wayne Sallade, the county's director of emergency management, but no exact death toll was available.

"Not hundreds. I would hope that it would be limited to dozens, if that," Sallade said. Deputies were standing guard over bodies because they were in areas not immediately accessible by ambulances.

SEE HURRICANE ON PAGE 16



PALM BEACH POST/AP

Above: A renter bows his head as a fire from a home next door approaches his apartment Friday afternoon after Hurricane Charley passed through Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Left: Employees of Beachcomber Liquors in Port Charlotte, Fla., look at the damage caused by the hurricane Friday.

More hurricane coverage on Page 16

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Cipel: N.J. governor made sexual advances

Former security adviser says McGreevey using 'smear campaign'

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Was he a powerful politician, forcing himself on a young aide? Or was it consensual? A day after New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey made history by announcing his resignation over an affair with another man, Golan Cipel gave his side of the story.

Cipel, 35, said McGreevey made repeated sexual advances toward him and now blames the governor for a "smear campaign," shedding new light on the relationship that brought down the first-term Democrat and forced him to come out as a gay man.

Cipel, a former security adviser, made his comments Friday

through attorney Allen Lowy, who read a statement but did not take questions from reporters at a news conference in New York.

"While employed by one of the most powerful politicians in the country, New Jersey Governor McGreevey, I was the victim of repeated sexual advances by him. Such conduct and McGreevey's behavior caused me such emotional distress and turmoil," according to Cipel's statement.

"When I finally dared to reject Governor McGreevey's advances, the retaliatory actions taken by him and members of his administration were nothing short of abuse and intimidation," he said.

Calling himself vindicated by McGreevey's public admission, Cipel said all he had wanted was

for McGreevey to take responsibility for his "horrible actions."

McGreevey and his camp insist it was a consensual affair between the twice-married governor and the political novice he put on New Jersey's payroll in 2002 as the state's director of homeland security at \$110,000 a year.

"These are completely and totally false allegations from a person trying to exploit his relationship with the governor," McGreevey spokesman Micah Rasmussen said.

One high-ranking McGreevey administration member said Cipel threatened McGreevey with a sexual harassment lawsuit unless Cipel was paid millions of dollars.

The FBI is investigating McGreevey's allegation that a former employee tried to blackmail him, according to a federal law enforcement source who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. A lawyer for McGreevey called the FBI the day before to report the extortion attempt, the source said.

McGreevey never mentioned Cipel during his dramatic, nationally televised news conference Thursday.

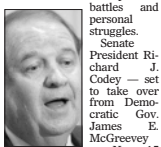
Meir Nitzan, a mayor in Israel who introduced Cipel and McGreevey during a March 2000 trip McGreevey made there, said he did not know whether Cipel was gay, instead describing him as a "straight-laced" man who was, by all appearances, heterosexual.

Associated Press political writer John McAlpin contributed to this story.

Seasoned N.J. senator to act as governor

The Associated Press

WEST ORANGE, N.J. — The state senator who will become New Jersey's acting governor is an old-fashioned politician with a penchant for one-liners — a 30-year veteran who has weathered political



Codey

battles and personal struggles. Senate President Richard J. Codey — set to take over from Democratic Gov. James E. McGreevey on Nov. 15 and to stay until January 2006 — promised Friday that New Jersey state would be "in very good hands."

"I am honored to take on this responsibility, and I will put my complete effort to the task ahead," Codey said a day after McGreevey's startling admission that he had an affair with another man and would resign.

"He understands the important role we bring as an equal branch of government," said Democratic Assemblyman Louis Greenwald of Camden.



Golan Cipel, who claims to be the man involved in Gov. James E. McGreevey's life, is shown outside his apartment in West Windsor, N.J.



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Peterson's mistress demanded the truth

BY KIM CURTIS
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — While the search for his pregnant wife was in full swing, Scott Peterson spent hours on his cell phone apologizing to his mistress for lying to her, according to prosecutors.

"You've been calling ... having conversations with me when all this is happening?" Amber Frey asked him in a Jan. 6, 2003, call heard by jurors Thursday.

"Yeah," Peterson said, and Frey responded, "Really? Isn't that a little twisted, Scott?"

He answered, "It is."

Thursday marked the third day of testimony for Frey, the government's star witness. Frey, who was not the stand during Peterson's double murder trial. Prosecutors resumed playing tapes of telephone calls between Peterson and Frey that were recorded as authorities searched for Laci Peterson in late December 2002 and early January 2003.

Judge Alfred A. Deluchi told jurors before court ended for the week that more of the recorded calls would be presented Monday and Tuesday. Frey was expected to take the stand again Wednesday to answer questions.

In one of the last recorded calls between Peterson and Frey, she confronted him about the disappearance of his wife.

"The media has been telling everyone that I had something to do with her disappearance," Peterson told Frey in the Jan. 6 call.

"So the past two weeks, I've been hunted by the media ... I know that I am, you know, I'm destroyed."

Later in the conversation, Frey said, "So, you know, you and I ..."

"Are destroyed," Peterson said. The audio tapes are an effort by authorities to show jurors that Peterson's motive to kill his wife and their unborn child was to be with Frey, a massage therapist. Police believe Peterson killed his wife in their Modesto home on or around Dec. 24, 2002, then drove her body to the bay and dumped her overboard.

In earlier testimony, Frey told jurors she called police after discovering her lover was not only married, but suspected in the disappearance of his pregnant wife. At the request of then on-duty began recording her calls with Peterson with a device bought for her by the Modesto Police Department. Ultimately, more than 300 calls between Peterson and Frey were recorded.



SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

The first trailer in this mobile home park on Harbor Drive in Port Charlotte, Fla., was totally destroyed Friday by Hurricane Charley.

'It was quite a show'

Some Floridians choose to ride out Hurricane Charley

BY BILL KACZOR
The Associated Press

Barbara Johnson says she probably won't do it again, but she's glad she stayed behind to ride out Hurricane Charley in the Florida barrier island community of Sanibel.

"It was quite a show," the retired librarian said Friday. "I almost enjoyed it."

Cheryl and Robert Anderson said they stayed because they both felt ill and they also wanted to stay with their six birds. They found themselves in the eye of the storm.

"I wouldn't recommend it," said Cheryl Anderson, 59, guest relations manager for a Sanibel resort. "As I was sitting in the bathtub I was asking, 'Why am I doing this?'"

She said Charley sounded just like a tornado that she survived as a girl in Missouri, but the hurricane was worse because it lasted longer.

Johnson decided to stay in her second-floor apartment and get a close-up look at Mother Nature's fury because she had nowhere else to go.

She said there appeared to be only superficial damage to her building, with water pooled about a foot deep in the courtyard.

Up the coast in Punta Gorda, Don Paterson walked along a roadside, with black bricking from his head and a glazed look on his eyes.

The 68-year-old Army veteran said he was sitting the kitchen of his mobile home when a flying microwave oven hit him in the head and then the refrigerator fell on him.

"I'm pinned and then a huge gust came, and I'm unpinned," Paterson said.

Jerry Yeomans, 52, was getting ready to work a midnight shift helping clear roads and putting signs back up. The Florida Department of Transportation employee rode out the storm in the same Fort Myers neighborhood where he survived another hurricane unscathed when he was a youngster, in 1960.

"I went through Hurricane Donna right up the street from this house," Yeomans said. "I really didn't see a need for" evacuating.

Less help after a hurricane

Hurricane-prone states in the South will have less help from the National Guard if needed because of troop call-ups for foreign service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Total National Guard troops

Texas:
2,000 out of 20,000

Alabama:
3,100 out of 14,800

Mississippi:
1,500 out of 14,500

Louisiana:
4,000 out of 12,500

Florida:
3,000 out of 12,000

North Carolina:
5,200 out of 11,500

South Carolina:
2,500 out of 10,500

Georgia:
1,600 out of 9,000

Virginia:
1,900 out of 8,700

Deployed

SOURCE: National Guard AP

Hurricane: 'Our worst fears have come true'

HURRICANE, FROM PAGE 14

There were five confirmed storm-related deaths elsewhere in the state. Earlier, Charley killed three people in Cuba and one in Jamaica. Tornadoes spun off by Tropical Storm Bonnie killed three people in North Carolina earlier in the week.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush completed a helicopter tour of the region, saying, "Our worst fears have come true."

Hundreds of people were unaccounted for in Florida's Charlotte County, which includes Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte, and thousands were homeless, Salade said. He compared the devastation with 1992's Hurricane Andrew, which was directly blamed for the deaths of 26 people, most in South Florida. Extensive damage was also reported on exclusive Captiva Island, a narrow strip of sand west of Fort Myers.

"It's Andrew all over again," he said. "We believe there's significant loss of life."

There are 31 mobile home parks in the county that suffered major damage, some with more than 1,000 units, said Bob Carpenter, a Charlotte County Sheriff's Office spokesman. He said teams

were sent to each park to search for bodies and survivors, but getting into them was difficult.

The storm arrived in North Carolina with maximum sustained wind of 75 mph, and gusts to more than 80, down considerably from the 145 mph wind that ravaged Florida on Friday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Ron Humble.

A hurricane warning was in effect from the South Sanite River in South Carolina to the Virginia-North Carolina state line. A tropical storm warning extended north to Sandy Hook, N.J., and a tropical storm watch was in effect to the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. National Guard troops were on duty in North Carolina, where a mandatory evacuation order was in effect for vulnerable coastal areas hit less than two weeks ago by Hurricane Alex.

It was moving north-northeast at 28 mph, a speed it would likely maintain through the day on its way to Virginia, National Weather Service meteorologist Ron Humble said.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas in Key West, Mitch Stacy and Brendan Farrington in Tampa, Vickie Chachere in Sarasota, Mike Brannan and Mike Schneider in Orlando and Bruce Smith in Charleston, S.C., contributed to this report.

President Bush to survey damage

SEATTLE — President Bush will travel Sunday to Florida to survey damage from Hurricane Charley.

"The president wants to take a firsthand look at damage from Charley and make sure people affected by Charley are getting the assistance they need," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Saturday.

Bush declared a major disaster in the state Friday, ordered federal aid for the recovery effort just two hours after Hurricane Charley hit.

From The Associated Press

Damage report

■ **Florida:** At least 15 people were killed, hundreds were unaccounted for, and thousands were homeless. More than 2 million utility customers lost power.

In Charlotte County, which includes Punta Gorda: Ten dead, three hospitals out of service because of damage. Emergency Operations Center not operational. Two shelters significantly damaged. Sheriff's office destroyed. Seven fire stations destroyed. Thirty-one mobile home parks suffered major damage.

In Desoto County, which includes Arcadia: Reports of roof blown off at hurricane shelter. Twelve injuries. Top floor of hospital damaged. Emergency operations center roof blown off. Water tower collapsed.

In Lee County, which includes Fort Myers: County property appraiser estimates 250,000 buildings structures, homes and churches were damaged.

■ **South Carolina:** Four wells at water treatment plant shut down. Multiple fire stations damaged.

Strand resort area evacuated and nearly emptied of 180,000 tourists and residents. About 65,000 customers lost power.

■ **North Carolina:** Gov. Mike Easley declared state of emergency. Thirty-six shelters opened in 14 counties. Mandatory evacuation in vulnerable areas of Brunswick County and on Ocracoke Island.

— The Associated Press

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Ernie Fister is a legendary NASCAR driver. He is shown in a racing suit and helmet, driving a race car. The background is dark with the driver's name and the event details prominently displayed.

Judge removes hurdle for marijuana vote

BY KEN RITTER

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A federal judge Friday breathed new life into an initiative to legalize up to one ounce of marijuana, declaring unconstitutional two petition requirements that left the measure short of qualifying for the ballot.

However, Judge James Mahan refused to order the marijuana issue placed on the Nov. 2 ballot. Instead, he said verification of the 66,000 names on petitions would determine if supporters reached the required

Petition must be OK'd before measure gets on ballot

51,337 valid signatures.

"If you've got the signatures, then it's on the ballot," Mahan told lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada, the Committee to Regulate and Control Marijuana, and the Marijuana Policy Project.

A previous court using sampling techniques showed signatures fell 1,024 short of the requirement. County election officials have until Aug. 31 to verify signatures.

Matthew Brinkerhoff, a lawyer repre-

senting the two marijuana advocacy groups, said there was "a decent likelihood" of qualifying the initiative to let Nevada adults possess and use one ounce of marijuana.

Nevada voters have approved the use of marijuana for medical reasons.

Because the latest measure would amend the Nevada Constitution, voters would have to approve it in November and again in 2006 before it could take effect.

In his ruling, Mahan invalidated Nevada's "13 counties rule" because it gave more weight to rural counties than populous areas.

The rule required initiative supporters to collect signatures from at least 10 percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the most recent general election in at least 13 of the state's 17 counties.

He also declared Nevada's "dual affidavit" requirement unconstitutional. It requires the person collecting signatures to vouch for the validity of names on both the petition and on a separate document.

Kiosk dispenses birth control

BY TODD RICHMOND

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — At North-central Technical College in Wausau, a computer kiosk that looks like a small automated teller machine sits just off a student lounge between a standard ATM and a copier.

But this kiosk doesn't dispense cash or make copies. It has a much more personal function — one that has outraged some conservatives.

For a clue, the screen flashes "Birth Control Supplies and Services."

The kiosk is one of three at state college campuses that allow women as young as 15 to mail order free condoms and birth control pills. A family planning group is testing the machines and state officials are intrigued.

To use the kiosk, people punch

in personal information, including their monthly income and Social Security number and the authorization for release of their medical records.

The computer enrolls women in the state's Medicaid Family Planning Waiver. The waiver, which began in January, allows women between the ages of 15 and 44 who make less than \$17,224 a year to get contraceptives for free.

They also can use the computer to order either three months' worth of contraceptive patches, three months' worth of birth control pills or three dozen condoms through the mail. A nurse calls later to follow up.

Family Planning Health Services of Wausau hopes to generate enough interest that the state, local health departments and employers with underinsured workers will borrow, rent or buy the kiosks.

Executive director Lon Newman said the machines will make it easier to get the word out about the waiver. About 48,000 women had enrolled in the program at the end of June — about 11.5 percent of 300,000 eligible women, according to state figures.

But some conservatives are outraged at the use of the kiosks, saying easy-access condoms and birth control pills promote sex.

"This program is for girls as young as 15, which is ridiculous," said state Rep. Glenn Grothman, a Republican.

Kelda Helen Roys, executive director of Pro-Choice Wisconsin, on the other hand, called the kiosks a great tool to control pregnancies and blasted Republican legislators.

State officials are watching the experiment because it could help save the state money by reducing the number of pregnancies covered by Medicaid.



AP

This computer kiosk at North Central Technical College in Wausau, Wis., allows women as young as 15 to order free condoms and birth control pills. The machine is one of three being tested by Family Planning Health Services of Wausau.

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Patrick Deuel has lost 321 pounds since being hospitalized in June for his excessive weight. Deuel, 42, originally weighed 1,072. He hopes to lose at least another 450 pounds and walk himself out of the hospital.

Half-ton man hospitalized

The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A man who once weighed more than half a ton has lost 321 pounds under the care of a team of doctors and hopes to lose 450 pounds more.

Patrick Deuel, 42, of Valentine, Neb., weighed 1,072 pounds when he was admitted to Sioux Falls' Avera McKennan Hospital eight weeks ago.

Deuel, who is just under 6 feet tall, is on a 1,200 calorie-a-day diet.

"If we hadn't gotten him here, he'd be dead now," said Fred Harris, Deuel's lead doctor.

The former restaurant manager has been bedridden since last fall. He has battled heart failure, thyroid problems, diabetes, pulmonary hypertension and arthri-

tis, and needed help just to roll over in bed.

"Until recently, I wasn't able to see any light at the end of the tunnel," he said Monday from his hospital bed.

A group known as the League of Human Dignity helped arrange for Deuel to be driven to a local livestock scale, where he could be weighed.

According to the Guinness World Records Web site, the record for heaviest man in the world is 1,397 pounds, held by Jon Brower Minnoch of Bainbridge, Wash., who died in 1983.

Deuel, who has battled weight problems all his life and blames his condition in part on genetics, said it took months to find a hospi-

tal. Hospitals closer to his home balked at admitting him, he said.

"I got scared because I couldn't help him anymore, and I didn't know who would help him," said his wife, Edith.

Harris said Deuel's care could cost millions of dollars, much of which the hospital may have to cover. Officials found a special ambulance, and hospital workers joined two beds to accommodate Deuel.

One of Deuel's goals is to walk out of the hospital. He also wants to go to a Nebraska Cornhuskers football game, and just take a walk with his wife.

"Even though he's faced negativity all these years, he's not a negative person," Edith Deuel said. "He's almost always been able to stay bubbly and make jokes and be happy."

Creative campaign pays off for man in need of liver

By JUAN A. LOZANO

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A man's efforts to get a healthy liver with public pleas, including billboards and a Web site, succeeded as he underwent transplant surgery with a donated organ.

Officials at The Methodist Hospital said

Todd Krampitz, 32, was recovering Friday in the intensive care unit, normal for all transplant patients, following successful surgery overnight.

Krampitz, a newlywed, was diagnosed in May with liver cancer and by July his doctors said only a transplant would save his life.

His family mounted a media campaign,

including two billboards along a Houston freeway, and a Web site that detailed his plight and raised awareness about organ donation. Krampitz and his wife, Julie, also did national media interviews.

In a statement, Julie Krampitz said a "generous family" donated the organ, and that it was given specifically for her husband.

The donor was from out of state, but no

other information was being released, said Catherine Graham, a spokeswoman for the organization that coordinated efforts to bring the liver to Houston after it became available Thursday morning.

Julie Krampitz said she and her husband want to continue encouraging all individuals to discuss organ donation with their families.

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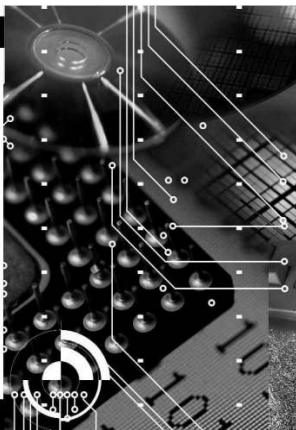
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IN THE WORLD



Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov speak at a news conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Saturday. Rumsfeld was to meet with Ivanov on Sunday, as well.

NATO's Baltic plans criticized

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov on Saturday criticized NATO's expansion into three former Soviet states on the Baltic Sea and warned that NATO warplanes flying patrols over those countries create a risk of accidental incidents.

Ivanov, speaking at a news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, questioned the need for the patrols but said they pose no real threat to Russia. The patrols are flown by four NATO fighter jets because the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have no air forces of their own.

"We cannot understand how these four planes

can intercept al-Qaida, the Taliban, or anything else," Ivanov said. "The only thing they can intercept is a mythical Soviet threat."

Rumsfeld said there was no need for friction between NATO and Russia. He suggested Russia strike an accord with the Baltic nations to avoid any "unnecessary incidents" — a possible reference to what might occur if a warplane violates a country's airspace.

Ivanov also questioned NATO's need for the three Baltic countries, which joined the alliance in April, saying through a translator, "The Baltic countries are consumers of security, not producers."

Russia has expressed concern about NATO's expansion before. But since the expansion four months ago, some U.S. officials see Russia reasserting itself with its Soviet-era republics.

Rwanda: Troops will use force to protect civilians

BY ARTHUR ASIMWE
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — Rwandan troops will use force if necessary to protect civilians in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said Saturday while bidding farewell to dozens of soldiers going to guard unarmed military observers monitoring a cease-fire in the area.

A dozen troops were airlifted to Darfur on Saturday aboard a cargo aircraft carrying armored personnel carriers, arms, ammunition and other military supplies for the troops, said Col. Patrick Karegeya, the Rwandan defense spokesman. The bulk of the force of 154 soldiers will leave Sunday, he said.

The troops are the first foreign military force deployed in Darfur since Arab militiamen began attacking black African farmers in the region, forcing more than a million people to flee their homes and leaving at least 2.2 million in need of food and other relief aid.

Their mission is to help protect

at least 80 unarmed military observers monitoring a shaky cease-fire between government forces and rebel troops.

But Kagame said the troops were prepared to use force to defend civilians.

"Our forces will not stand by and watch innocent civilians being hacked to death like the case was here in 1994," Kagame said, referring to United Nations troops who did not intervene as a genocide unfolded in Rwanda in 1994 because they did not have a mandate to stop the slaughter of at least 500,000 minority Tutsis and political moderates from the Hutu majority.

Rwandan troops are part of a 300-strong African force Sudan was pressed to allow into Darfur, where thousands have been killed, more than a million forced from their homes and some 2.2 million are in urgent need of aid, according to the United Nations, which called Darfur the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

It was not immediately clear when the troops would be sent to Darfur as part of the force.

New EU leader calls for anti-terror unit

BY AIDAN LEWIS
The Associated Press

ROME — As the European Union struggles to come up with a common security policy, its new security coordinator is pushing for a unit that would share anti-terrorism intelligence among the bloc's 25 member-states and is calling for European border police to tackle illegal immigration.

However, experts threw doubt Friday on whether Rocco Buttiglione — an Italian just named as commissioner for justice, freedom and security — would have much success. The issues he hopes to address are sensitive within the EU, they said, and powerful nations have been reluctant to give up control over security policy.

Buttiglione said in remarks published Friday that new structures were needed to protect Europe from terrorism. "I am thinking of a more efficient use of European secret services through the creation of a coordination unit," Buttiglione said in an interview with Turin's La Stampa newspaper.

"It could be created under the authority of my commission office. But it would be more appropriate to insert it into the still embryonic structure created for European defense," he said.

Experts warned that Buttiglione would struggle to push through any intelligence-sharing body.

"Increasing cooperation among intelligence services is a very desirable objective. But it's also a very difficult one," said Steven Everts, a senior research fellow at the Center for European Reform in London. "Intelligence services like to share things — but on a bilateral or even trilateral basis or on an ad hoc basis."

At a summit in March, the idea of a special intelligence unit was blocked by big EU countries including France, Britain and Germany, who say they don't want to compromise intelligence-gathering. Instead, European leaders appointed European Union's first anti-terrorism czar, Gijs de Vries.

Buttiglione did not elaborate on the anti-intelligence unit, but any proposal he may make on security would have to be approved by EU member-states.



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Ailing Pope visits Lourdes

BY ANGELA DOLAND
The Associated Press

LOURDES, France — A frail Pope John Paul II joined other ailing pilgrims Saturday for a week-end of prayer at a cliffside shrine to the Virgin Mary, where Roman Catholics seek hope, inner peace and miraculous cures.

Pilgrims from around the world poured into Lourdes, a small town nestled in the Pyrenees, for the pontiff's two-day visit to a grotto where Mary is said to have appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858. Up to 300,000 people were expected.

Church bells rang out as the pontiff passed by, hunched over behind the tall windows of his Popemobile. Cheers broke out as he slowly lifted a hand to greet crowds waving the Vatican's yellow-and-white flag.

At Lourdes' shrine, the 84-year-old pope was hoisted out of his wheelchair and knelt for a moment on a kneeler, trembling as he prayed before the ivy-covered grotto. He appeared to slip, and aides immediately lifted him into his wheeled throne.

Then, following Lourdes' custom, he sipped a glass of water from the spring that flows underground, believed by many to have curative powers.

Though the pontiff had spoken haltingly in slurred French earlier in the day, his prepared speech at the grotto was read by a French cardinal.

"Dear brothers and sisters who are sick, how I would like to embrace each and every one of you with affection, to tell you how close I am to you and how much I support you," the speech said.

Lourdes' grotto is associated with miraculous cures for the sick. Thousands of people have claimed to have been healed, and the church has recognized 66 claims as official miracles. The Vatican, however, says that the pope is not seeking a cure for his Parkinson's disease and other health problems.

The visit began at the airport in nearby Tarbes, where the pope was greeted by French President Jacques Chirac and his wife Bernadette on the red-carpeted runway. The Chiracs kissed the



French President Jacques Chirac's wife, Bernadette, kisses Pope John Paul II's hand as Chirac, left, looks on after the pontiff's arrival Saturday at the Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrenees Airport in southwestern France.

pope's ring and escorted him into a VIP building.

Then, speaking with difficulty, John Paul reminded France of its Christian roots and talked of visiting the grotto.

"With great emotion, I wish to join the millions of pilgrims who come to Lourdes each year from every part of the world, in order to entrust to the Mother of the Lord the intentions which they bear in their hearts and to ask for her help and intercession," he said.

Chirac spoke of peace, solidarity, and the fight against racism and hate, which he said was "so urgent in the face of the rise of fanaticism and intolerance." France has recently struggled to curb acts of anti-Semitic violence and vandalism at Jewish and Muslim cemeteries.

Hinting at lingering reproach to the United States for launching the Iraq war, Chirac said France and the Vatican together urged "dialogue between cultures as an antidote to violence."

Sun-drenched streets, decked with welcome signs, were lined with excited pilgrims. Police on horseback watched over the crowd, and Red Cross workers set up a yellow tent to help those who might suffer from heat stroke or other ailments on a hot day.

One highlight of the visit Saturday is expected to be a torch-lit procession at dusk — an event that many visitors say is unforget-

table. Pilgrims leave the grotto carrying slender white candles and following a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Mary holds a special significance for the pontiff. After he was shot by a Turkish gunman in St. Peter's Square in 1981, John Paul said Christ's mother "guided" the bullet's path to save his life.

Georgia cease-fire ends with shooting

South Ossetia region wants to join Russia, but nation wants Russian peacekeepers out

BY MISHA
DZHINDZHIKHASHVILI
The Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — A Georgian peacekeeper was shot and wounded in South Ossetia early Saturday, a top Georgian official said, just hours after negotiators agreed on a cease-fire to try and calm simmering tensions in the breakaway region.

The shooting followed three straight nights of gun and mortar fire, threatening to undermine efforts to defuse long-standing antagonism in the de facto independent region which broke away from Georgia's central government in a war in the early 1990s.

South Ossetia wants to join Russia, but Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to peacefully restore his government's control over the region. Georgia's Khindra, Georgia's minister for conflict resolution, said the peacekeeper was hospitalized in critical condition after being shot by gunfire from a South Ossetia village around 3 a.m.

However, a top South Ossetian official, Boris Chochiev, accused the Georgian forces of firing first and breaking the cease-fire, which went into effect at midnight following agreement by a special joint commission in South Ossetia's main city, Tskhinvali.

The commission was to meet again Saturday to discuss proposals to withdrawal armed merce-

nary groups that both Georgian and South Ossetia have accused the other of supporting.

On Friday, Georgia's parliament called for suspending the mandate of Russian peacekeepers in the region, accusing Russia of taking sides. Lawmakers want Western peacekeepers to replace the Russians.

Some 500 Russian peacekeepers are serving along with Georgian and South Ossetian forces in the region.

Speaking at a joint news conference in St. Petersburg Saturday, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said he discussed the situation in Georgia with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"The situation is Georgia is developing along a very dangerous script, a very dangerous spiral," Ivanov told reporters.

He also rejected Georgian claims that Russian peacekeepers were taking sides in South Ossetia as "nonsense."

"With such assertions, the Georgian side is trying to shift the blame to someone else," Ivanov said.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said any decision to introduce Western peacekeepers would require the agreement of both Georgians and South Ossetians.

Russia considers the former Soviet republic part of its sphere of influence and is wary of a greater presence from European countries or the United States.

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Robotic toys enter fight ring to rumble

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

KAWASAKI, Japan — The ring sits in the spotlight of a tense, packed auditorium and the jittery fighters await the bell at their red and blue corners.

Like any fight, there's always the danger of a punishing uppercut or left hook. But these boxers have even more worries — like battery failure and software bugs.

The contenders are robots fighting in a kick-boxing match that's held twice a year in Japan, a leading nation in the robotics world.

The all-for-fun event is evidence of an infatuation with robots here and of the widely accepted view of robots as entertaining friends.

It's a contrast to other nations, where robots are increasingly being used in warfare and robots often are considered creepy threats.

"For me, robots are for making people happy," said Yusuke Sugawara, a 32-year-old engineer whose robot wore a fluffy wig and blew bubbles from a fake snorkel when people clapped. "Japanese people all love robots. Inside our hearts, we all want to make robots that we grew up watching on TV cartoons."

Robo-One, begun four years ago to stimulate public interest in robots, is loosely based on K-1, a popular sport that combines elements of kickboxing, karate and taekwondo.

The Sixth Robo-One Contest last week drew some 90 robots running on software developed by amateurs from across Japan and

South Korea to a hall in Kawasaki, southwest of Tokyo.

According to Robo-One rules, a robot that gets pulled, pushed or punched down must get up on its feet before the referee counts to 10 to avoid a knockout.

Shining in bright colors, the robots, mostly measuring about 16 inches tall, look like fancy toys and sport comic-book names like Typoon SP, Dynamizer2 and Majingaa.

They sometimes become entangled and tumble off the ring together onto the cushions on the floor. A fall from the ring counts as two knockdowns, with three knockdowns resulting in a loss just like a knockout.

With robots, the count to 10 also starts when a machine freezes in mid-action on its feet. If it collapses by accident on its own and can't get up before the count to 10, that's a knockout as well.

"The technological advances have been amazing over the years," says Naohiro Hayaishi of robot-maker and Robo-One participant Vstone, who has attended the matches from their inception.

The fight money isn't stingy at Robo-One, which has drawn corporate sponsors, including Tokyo-based toy maker Bandai Co. and 20th Century Fox. Its science-fiction thriller movie "I, Robot," is released in Japan. This year's winner, the 11 lb. Humanoid Project from Kyushu University, outmuscled rivals, collecting \$9,000. The runner-up was awarded \$1,800.



This year's winning robot, 2325-RV, developed by the Humanoid Project from Kyushu University, gives its opponent HAJIME ROBOT, developed by Hajime Sakamoto, a right blow during the semifinal match of the Sixth Robo-One Contest in Kawasaki, Japan, last week. Some 90 robots running on software developed by amateurs from across Japan and South Korea competed.

Film may help man who inspired it

The Associated Press

ROISSY, France — He has no address but his mail arrives just the same. The pharmacy takes his phone calls and the cluster of fast food restaurants assures a steady flow of food, handouts included.

Mehran Karimi Nasser, a perpetual passenger stuck in transit, he has lived in Terminal 1 of Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport for the past 16 years.

But change is afoot. His quirky story inspired Steven Spielberg's

movie "The Terminal" starring Tom Hanks. It put money in Mehran's pocket and could be the ticket to a new life — if he chooses.

"Here, it's not life. It's just staying like a passenger and waiting for departure," said Mehran.

Gaunt and mustachioed, Mehran, 59, of British and Iranian parents, has ceded the rights to his story to Spielberg, according to the office of Mehran's lawyer, Christian Bourquet. The price of the deal was confidential, the lawyer's office said.

Mehran claimed the deal with Spielberg's DreamWorks SKG was worth \$450,000. Despite several calls to DreamWorks, the information could not immediately be confirmed.

Mehran becomes confused by his own confusing history. He has taken to saying that he hails from Florida and never had parents at all. Accounts of his life vary, but

Mehran is known to have been imprisoned in Iran for demonstrating against now-deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, then expelled without a passport.

In 1981, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees in Belgium gave him refugee credentials, but his briefcase containing the papers was stolen in a Paris train station. In 1988, he turned up at the airport hoping to fly to Britain — without a passport. With no country to which he could be deported, he has been at the airport ever since.

This isn't the first chance Mehran has had to escape Terminal 1. In 1999, the UNHCR in Belgium granted him refugee status again. He hedged, saying that he was waiting for a passport.

Today, Mehran reiterates his need for a passport, and says he wants to go to the United States or Canada. "The money ... is not the point," he said, referring to his deal with DreamWorks.

Mehran Karimi Nasser, 59, who calls himself Alfred Mehran and inspired Steven Spielberg's movie "The Terminal," sits among his belongings at Terminal 1 of Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport on Wednesday.



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Man walks tightrope between 2 hot air balloons

A blindfolded tightrope walker on Saturday crossed between two hot air balloons flying 4,000 feet above the ground.

Wearing a parachute for safety, Mike Howard, 38, inched his way along a 19-foot-long pole, in a stunt at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta in southwest England. "When you are blindfolded you can't see how high up you are. I just try to imagine I am three feet above the ground," said Howard, who holds the world record for the highest balloon skywalk at 18,800 feet. Howard said he now wants to do the stunt at 20,000 feet.

Spanish mayor arranges therapy for officials

The mayor of a Spanish city said Thursday she sent town councilors to therapy to better cope with the stress of the job.

Mayor Catalina Crier denied a report that the individual and group sessions stemmed from feuding among the 15 members of her conservative Popular Party sitting on the council of Palma de Mallorca. Instead, she likened the treatment to a pep rally for soccer players.

"I believe in team work," Crier said in an interview from the resort-rich Mediterranean island.

Crier said 10 of the councilors elected in May 2003 had never held public office before, and the sessions were aimed at helping them deal with issues such as a hostile press corps.

From wire reports

Sunday Horoscope

The new moon in Leo is not only a fresh start, it's like a gunshot announcing the start of the race. Mercury is still retrograde, though, so you may sprint a few yards, metaphorically speaking, and then double back to make sure you really went as far as you thought you did. Mercury retrogrades can make you with a touch of paranoia.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 15). Your relationships are fortified in every way this year — you're really coming into your own, showing the world who you are. Singles find romance through mutual friends in the next three weeks. A December vacation is like a dream come true — after working so hard, you'll need it. You click with Sagittarius and Libra — marriage is a fabulous idea.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Be as objective as you can in regard to your own life — try and see the patterns. Old baggage could cause you to repeat a bad decision. Stay clear of mesmerizing but out-of-control who you loves. Though exciting, they're dangerous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The spotlight is on you just when you're feeling the shyest. Many people believe that hoarding one's talents is a sin — rise to the occasion when asked to share yours. Choose the most natural remedies to stay healthy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends have over you — it almost feels strange. A surge in enthusiasm over something you did in the past renews your ambitions. You may wonder — what took them so long? You may as well soak up the praise while it's coming.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your center of gravity shifts. What was important seems less so, as different values now dictate your life. A new romantic relationship can bring plenty of gain to your life if you're willing to sacrifice some of your independence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's gratifying to develop what interests you personally. Romance is born out of your need to first explore the

world on your own terms. Don't worry about how long you'll be single — the world is not Noah's ark.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In every way, you are intent on tightening your belt. Use caution (but effectively) people as your guides. You'll see progress just as soon as you eliminate the elements you no longer need, whether physical or emotional.

Joyce Jilison



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Attaining perfect energetic flow between mind and body is your goal. Exercise that emphasizes the positive power of your mind helps you achieve this worthy aim. Think of all you'll give back when you're feeling stronger.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A search continues. The one thing not to do is settle in when your heart doesn't agree. Pay attention to signals coming from your body. Someone who is perfect "on paper" doesn't have the inner qualities you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll hit a rare period of introspection. The insights others offer you may sound like old news, but there's a reason you keep hearing the same advice. Consider that your advisers might actually be right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A sort of uprising is featured. You know what you stand for, what's right and what you can no longer tolerate. It does not need to give lip service, though. Let your action tell the story instead of your mouth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're organized, focused, and efficient, so it really bugs you when others dawdle. Speak up before you're blamed for someone else's laziness. Don't let technical and transportation glitches keep you from what's important.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Exceptions to the rule are bound to come up, so be flexible. Let yourself relax and enjoy what others bring to your life. Employ your humor when family members get testy. With a little diplomacy, you'll come out on top.

Creators Syndicate

Curious about 'nosey parker'

Where did the expression "nosey parker" come from? Nobody is quite sure how a busybody came to be known as a "nosey parker." There are a couple of theories, though.

Since this chiefly British term is often capitalized, it's often thought that its origins lie with an excessively nosy person having the surname "Parker."

One candidate that has been suggested is Matthew Parker, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1559 to 1575, and who was well-known for keeping a close eye on the private lives of those living in his diocese.

However, the first recorded

use of "Nosey Parker" dates from 1907, and it's unlikely that memories of the curious clergyman stimulated for almost 400 years before surfacing in the 20th century.

Until the 1880s, in fact, the word "nosey" (or "nosy") simply described a person with a large nose and had no connection to an overly inquisitive nature.

An even less plausible theory suggests that "nosey parkers" were people who frequented London's Hyde Park and spied on amorous couples.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Deployed husband's cheating shakes wife's trust in spouse

Dear Abby: I am the wife of an Army soldier who has been deployed to Honduras for six months. In a telephone call a couple of weeks ago, he confessed that he had cheated on me since he left. He said he has cut off all contact with this local woman, yet he continues to go to the bar where they met. He says that he's told me about the infidelity, and I should trust that he won't do it again.

But, Abby, how can I trust him when he lied to me all this time? I know he is stressed being away from home, but the stresses of him not being home are equally hard on me and the children. I get over this and start trusting my husband again?

—Confused Army Wife in Alaska

Dear Confused: If your husband didn't have a conscience, he wouldn't have confessed his indiscretion to you. However, your concerns are valid. Tell your husband that, as proof of his contrition, you want his promise that he will avoid not only that bar, but any other tempting situations that might present themselves while he's away.

Once he returns, marriage counseling to heal the breach he

has caused would be a giant step in the right direction. With professional help, the two of you can get past this.

Dear Abby: As your readers mature, some of them will be among the 9 million older Americans who have some signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Nearly 2 million struggle to read because of it.

AMD is a painless disease. It sometimes develops so slowly that people notice little change in their vision. But AMD blurs the sharp, central vision needed for "straight-ahead" activities, like reading, sewing and driving.

There are two forms of AMD: wet and dry. Wet AMD is the more serious form. It's caused by new blood vessels that grow at the back of the eye and then bleed. Usually the first symptom is when straight lines begin to look wavy. If you have dry AMD, the most common symptom is a slight blurring. You might also have trouble recognizing faces, and you may need brighter light to read or perform other tasks.

The good news is, recent clinical trials show that a combination of high-dose vitamins and minerals can slow AMD and

vision loss. Many advances in technology are also providing effective solutions to AMD and other age-related vision problems.

Please encourage readers who suspect they may have AMD or other vision problems, who are over the age of 60, or have diabetes, to consult an eye health care professional as soon as possible. Thank you for helping to make vision a healthy priority.

—Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., Director

National Eye Institute
Dear Dr. Sieving: I'm pleased to spread the word. The subject may not be "sexy," but it's important.

Readers, any change in vision should be immediately reported to your doctor. This includes blurring of vision, "floating lights" or an increased number of "floaters."

Before buying vision supplements to maintain your vision, ask your doctor which kind is most helpful.

The federal government's National Eye Institute provides a wealth of information to help people of all ages maintain healthy vision at its Web site: www.nei.nih.gov.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #9440, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108. Please e-mail Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pennpost.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Retired husband has taken to smoking marijuana often

Dear Annie: My husband, "Wally," and I were fortunate enough to retire three years ago. We are in our 50s and financially secure.

Since that time, Wally has been using marijuana at an increasing rate. He always used on occasion, but now it's two or three times a week.

This does not make me happy. The illicit high is not worth the humiliation should his use be revealed publicly.

Wally has promised to cut back or quit, but he has repeatedly failed to keep his word. This is a constant source of conflict between us. When he comes home high, he can't understand why I have no interest in responding to his romantic overtures. The reason I am angry and frustrated is that he has so little respect for my position on this issue.

We recently have begun counseling. Wally freely acknowledges that he never would have achieved his professional success if he had been a regular marijuana user while working, yet he has no intention of giving it up.

Many of our social contacts

would be horrified if they knew of his habit.

We have been married for 37 years, and I still love him, but I certainly don't like him much when he's high. I don't want a divorce, but this difference between us is a growing chasm. I fear someday our marriage will be in name only.

I need advice on my reaction to his use. My anger is not helping the situation. Any suggestions?

—Wife of a Pothead
Dear Wife: Wally has formed a habit he finds difficult to kick.

Continue with your counseling and also look into Nar-Anon (naranon.com) for families of drug users. The address is: Nar-Anon World Service Office, 23527 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 200 B, Torrance, CA 90505.

Dear Annie: I've been friends with a co-worker for three years.

Nancy and I always had lunch together and talked. One day, I noticed she was cold toward me. I tried to talk to her, but she refused to listen and ignored me when we saw each other. Finally,

I wrote her a note asking what the problem was. I told her I had no idea why she was upset and apologized for anything I may have said or done.

She wrote back, "I'd rather not talk about it." I want to know why she is angry with me so I can straighten it out or at least defend myself. It's been six months, and nothing has changed.

I have not spoken to anyone at work about the rift, although I'm sure they've noticed that Nancy and I are avoiding each other.

Annie, once I make friends, it's for life. What should I do?

—Bewildered in Los Angeles

Dear L.A.: It's possible Nancy saw something at a co-worker told her something that hurt her so badly she cannot forgive you. Go to her in person. Say, "I don't know what I did to make you so angry, but I miss you and want to make things right. Please give me another chance." Invite her to lunch so you can hash it out. If it doesn't work, at least you will know you gave it your best shot.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@earthlink.net or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



RELIGION

Catholic sexual abuse cases against nuns now being filed

BY ELLEN R. STAPLETON

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church has focused primarily on molestation by priests, but in Louisville, two dozen people are now suing an order of nuns that staffed an orphanage decades ago.

The allegations include some accusing nuns of molestation as well as charges against a now-deceased priest. While experts agree the incidence of abuse by nuns has been much less frequent than assaults by male clergy, the phenomenon has gained some attention recently.

The initial Kentucky lawsuit against the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth was brought by seven plaintiffs July 15, just over a year after 243 people reached a \$25.7 million abuse settlement with the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Some plaintiffs have accused the Rev. Herman J. Lammers of molesting or raping them. He was a longtime Catholic Charities director who served as the resident chaplain at St. Thomas-St. Vincent Orphanage, which the sisters ran from 1952 until it closed in 1983. Lammers died in 1986.

But there are also allegations against about a dozen nuns. Almost all those plaintiffs, ages 38 to 72, are women who claim the sisters molested them and beat them with leather straps while they lived at the orphanage, sometimes making them stand naked in front of others or locking them in closets without food.

"As women, they should want to protect children," said 30-year-old Landa Mauriello-Vernon of Hamden, Conn., who

has an unrelated lawsuit pending against a nun and the Catholic school she attended in New England.

Mauriello-Vernon is leading a national awareness campaign for the Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests.

"What we're really doing is reaching out to the victims and educating parents and grandparents that not all women are safe," Mauriello-Vernon said. "But I think our country will have a pretty hard time hearing that."

There have been several other examples of lawsuits targeting nuns. A Boston suit filed in May included allegations by nine people who said they were abused by more than a dozen nuns at a Catholic school for the deaf.

Jeff Anderson, a Minnesota attorney, said he has represented more than 1,000 people over 22 years in cases involving priests or religious men, but has only handled about a half-dozen involving nuns.

"That tells you something. The whole phenomenon of nuns abusing is somewhat recent," said Anderson, who believes many nuns who abused minors were exploited by male clergy themselves.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth is a 192-year-old order of 650 nuns that provides education, health care and social services in the United States, India, Belize, Nepal and Botswana. Spokeswoman Barbara Qualis said the community has had as many as 1,600 nuns.

The order and its attorney have denied that they have any evidence of abuse or a cover-up at the orphanage — which was owned by the archdiocese through Catholic Charities — or at three schools which are mentioned in the suits.



Episcopal Bishop John Bryson Chane stands on the grounds of the Washington (D.C.) National Cathedral, in June, Chane conducted the first ceremony for gay partners using his diocese's new liturgy.

More Episcopal blessing unions for gay couples

BY RACHEL ZOLL

The Associated Press

A vote last year that seemed like a defeat for gays in the Episcopal Church has, in a twist, led to an increasing number of dioceses developing just what advocates wanted — official services for same-sex unions.

At the tumultuous Episcopal national convention a year ago this week, bishops voted a measure that would have authorized drafting a liturgy blessing gay partnerships.

But at least six dioceses have interpreted even the watered-down legislation that eventually passed as a go-ahead to develop services or policies for blessing same-gender couples, saying language in the resolution encouraged formalizing the ceremonies in local parishes.

Several bishops had argued the measure was simply an acknowledgment that some parishes were already conducting the ceremonies, even though the church hadn't settled the question of whether the Bible bans gay sex.

But many other Episcopalians disagreed, pointing to a key section which recognized that "local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions."

"As in many other dioceses, there had been blessings of unions done secretly or quietly," said the Rev. Daniel Webster, spokesman for the Diocese of Utah, which in May approved three different liturgies for same-sex ceremonies. "What this said, and what the action of the General Convention allowed, was to do this in the open."

The Rev. Kendall Harmon, theologian for the conservative Diocese of South Carolina, was among traditionalists who predicted a year ago that the measure would lead to more same-sex blessing ceremonies, despite what some bishops feared. He accused Episcopal leaders of playing down the import of the legislation to mask its real intent.

Among the other U.S. dioceses moving forward with the services or developing liturgies based on the resolution are Vermont, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Long Island and Massachusetts — where the state's highest court declared gay marriage legal. Some additional dioceses, including Delaware and New Hampshire, had authorized same-gender blessings before last year's convention.

Churches lament lack of organists

BY AVIS THOMAS-LESTER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Deborah Bagby began her career as a church organist at age 16 out of necessity — her father, the pastor, needed someone to accompany his congregation as members made joyful noises during Sunday services.

Thirty-five years later, Bagby is a professional church organist and minister of music at Church of the Holy Communion, which had been looking for an organist for more than six months when it found Bagby.

The church she left is still searching for her replacement six months later, reflecting a shortage here and nationwide of qualified church organists.

"Churches used to be able to get someone to come and play out of the kindness of their hearts," said Bagby, 53. "But now it's more likely that a church will have to pay a salary. Being a church organist requires a lot of work..."

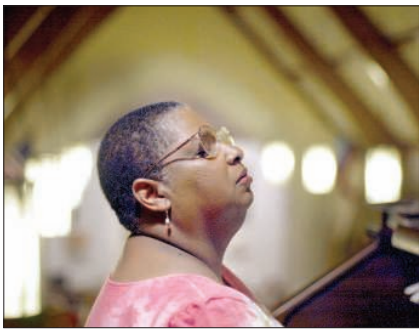
The problem is worsening as many older organists are reaching retirement age, young musicians are shunning the occupation because of low pay, and few youths are taking up the instrument.

The shortage has sent many churches overseas, particularly to Britain, to hire organists. Some organizations, such as the American Guild of Organists, have initiated programs to lure children to the instrument in hopes of expanding the future pool of church organists.

The problem is more intricate. Organists must be highly trained — many hold graduate degrees — and spend hours each week practicing difficult music.

"And not many people want to give up their Sunday every week," Bagby added. "If you go on vacation, you have to try to find someone who can substitute for you, and that's not easy to do." Organists say the profession doesn't pay well.

"Lucrative is not the word," said Scott



"It's very complicated music — 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century compositions," says Deborah Bagby, 53, who became a church organist at age 16. Bagby is shown at Church of the Holy Communion in Washington, D.C.

Hanoian, 27, assistant director of music and assistant organist at Washington National Cathedral, who started playing organ at 9 and made his first church performance at 11. "It's sustaining."

The organists' guild, a professional organization serving more than 21,000 organ and choral musicians nationally and abroad, recommends a base salary of about \$47,000 to \$63,000 for full-time organists holding doctorates; \$42,000 to \$56,000 for those with master's degrees; and \$25,000 to \$35,000 for half-time musicians with doctorates. But many churches do not follow those guidelines.

As primary and secondary schools have slashed funding for music, fewer children are being exposed to programs that teach classical and sacred music. And shorter attention spans among chil-

dren have led music programs to focus on shorter, less complicated pieces, said Margot Fassler, director of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University.

Nevertheless, authorities said there are reasons to be optimistic. Programs to introduce children to the organ were filled to capacity in every city where they were offered in recent years, said James Thomashower, the guild's executive director.

And while some college programs are closing, others are starting. Renowned organist Gerre Hancock, who directed the organ program at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City, and his wife, Judith, also a respected organist, plan to start a master's degree program in organ at the University of Texas at Austin.

Gerri Marmer provided research assistance for this report.

JOHN McDONNEL/The Washington Post

Trout relocation

CA SACRAMENTO — The U.S. Forest Service on Wednesday rejected environmentalists' appeal of a plan to poison a stream south of Lake Tahoe to aid what wildlife officials call "the rarest trout in America."

Unless opponents sue, the decision frees the California Department of Fish and Game to seek a permit to clear non-native fish from 11 miles of Silver King Creek next month using rotenone, a toxic chemical.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Girfriend run over

NY SYRACUSE — A man was convicted of second-degree vehicular manslaughter for driving drunk and running over his girlfriend following an argument.

An Onondaga County Court jury needed just 90 minutes Wednesday to convict Joseph Bertrand, 41, of Syracuse. The jury also found Bertrand guilty of criminally negligent homicide and driving while intoxicated in the Dec. 14 death of Michele Lozpine.

Bertrand faces a maximum sentence of 2½ to seven years in state prison when he appears before Judge Joseph Fahey on Aug. 30.

Lozpine, 42, died shortly after being struck by the car Bertrand was driving. Authorities said Lozpine had been riding in the car with Bertrand when the two began to argue. She got out and started to walk home when she was struck.

Bible battle

TX HOUSTON — The court battle over a Bible at a monument outside a government building may not be over yet.

The Harris County attorney's office is studying whether it should seek court permission to continue displaying the Bible near the Civil Courts Building while appealing a judge's order to remove it.

A federal judge earlier this week gave the county 10 days to remove the Bible from the monument. Ruling that the display violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment, Judge Sim Lake ordered the county to pay \$41,000 in court costs and attorneys' fees in the lawsuit that contended the display of the Bible on county property was unconstitutional.

County Attorney Mike Stafford said even if a stay of Lake's order is not sought, the county will appeal his decision to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans and to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

Rape conviction reversed

FL SHARPESS — A man who served 22 years in prison for rape was freed early Thursday after DNA evidence proved he was not the attacker.

Wilton A. Dedge, 42, walked out of the Brevard County Jail with his parents just hours after the test results, which had been ordered last month by a judge. The state Legislature in 2001 passed a law that allowed DNA retesting in older cases.

At two trials, the victim, age 17 at the time of the attack, identified Dedge as the man who slashed her with a knife and raped her twice in 1981. She had originally described her attacker as being 6 feet tall and

weighing 160 to 180 pounds. Dedge at the time was 5 feet 6 and about 125 pounds.

Bird's long flight

MA EDGARTOWN — A rare red-footed falcon has been spotted on Martha's Vineyard, the first time the bird of prey has ever been seen in North America.

About 120 people rushed to Katama Airfield in Edgartown on Wednesday to catch a glimpse of the slate-gray, juvenile male, which is thousands of miles from its normal summer home in Eastern Europe. Experts said the falcon was likely blown off course en route from its winter home in Africa.

"It's the biggest birding news in the last 10 years," said Vineyard birder Vernon Laux, who first spotted the falcon. "All indications are that a wild bird somehow made it across the Atlantic. It's like having a Martian walking around."

Smoking mom nabbed

VA BOWLING GREEN — A Caroline County woman was due in court Thursday on charges she violated a court order that prevents her from smoking around her two children.

Tamara Silvius, 44, was barred from smoking around her children last August by Caroline Juvenile

and Domestic Relations District Judge John Thomas as part of her shared custody arrangement with her ex-husband.

She had already violated the order once, during a trip to South Carolina for Thanksgiving, when she taped plastic trash bags inside her car to keep the smoke from reaching her children, now ages 8 and 10.

For that, Silvius was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and was given a 10-day suspended sentence on the condition she not do it again.

She said the issue arose when she petitioned for full custody of the children in 2002 because of a series of 911 calls for domestic disputes at the home of her ex-husband, Steve Silvius, and his third wife.

When the custody issue came to court, Steve Silvius' attorney raised the problem of Tamara's excessive alcohol consumption.

"From there, it went to smoking," she said.

Teen on death row

TX HOUSTON — A Baytown teenager on Wednesday was sentenced to death for killing his elderly neighbors.

Robert Acuna, 18, was convicted in the shooting deaths of James Carroll, 75, and his wife, Joyce, 74, last November at their home.

"He has evil in his heart," prosecutor Renee Magee told jurors as she urged them to return a death sentence.

But during the eight-day trial, prosecutors offered no explanation for why the Sterling High School junior killed the couple, stole their car and drove to Dallas.

Acuna, who was 17 at the time of the slayings, was arrested at a Dallas motel five days after the couple was found dead. At the hotel, police found the Carroll's car, some property from their home and a .38-caliber pistol.

Prison parent program

NH NASHUA — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Nashua has begun a three-year program to help children who have a parent in prison.

Jerry Grantham, the group's executive director, said 70 percent of children with a parent in prison end up behind bars. He said that while it costs \$25,000 to house an inmate for a year, it costs just \$1,300 to provide a child with a mentor.

The Nashua group will lead a statewide effort using a \$135,000 grant to work with the children. The money is part of \$45 million in federal grants to provide mentors to children of prisoners.

Child gang rape charges

CO AAURORA — Three men are accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl in what police describe as a gang rape.

Eduardo Alvarez-Williams, 45, and Martin Garcia-Abalos, 21, were being held on \$150,000 bond. Domingo Lopez-Avalos, 19, is still being sought. All are suspected of sexual assault on a child in prison.

The alleged assault happened when the girl said she was pulled into an apartment in a complex near an old Army hospital.



Skating high

Preston Zalek, 17, of Woodbridge, N.J., attempts a transfer, as other skateboarders watch, at the skatepark at Kennedy Park in Sayreville, N.J.



Awesome ride

Bryce Pedersen, of McCall, Idaho, jet skis on Payette Lake at Ponderosa Park in McCall while vacationing with friends from Portland, Ore.



Rhino love

Imara, top, the Kansas City Zoo's 6-month-old rhinoceros nuzzles her mother after a birthday party that included an exercise ball present, the crowd singing "Happy Birthday" and free cupcakes.



Bird on a wire Birds flock around high-tension wires on City Island Park in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Two brave souls Noel Derillo and Jacqueline Pescatore, from the Philadelphia area, pose for photos behind cut-out figures in front of a boarded business in Key West, Fla., as Hurricane Charley approaches. The two said they are staying in Key West even though many tourists were told to leave.



A cool idea Adam Hunnell poses next to a beer keg in Cleveland. Hunnell has a \$20,000 entrepreneur grant and is spending the summer figuring out how to build a portable device to keep beer kegs cold.



Searching for a monster A large pontoon boat in the shape of a sea monster run by Brian Hirschi ferries tourists on a tour of Bear Lake, north of Garden City, Utah. The Bear Lake Monster has been talked about, debated and scouted since its first reported sighting in 1868.

Candy criminal

NM ALBUQUERQUE — It was sweet sleuthing for cops casting a candy crime.

They quickly caught the sweet tooth who made off with a box of Fifth Avenue candy bars early Monday.

A trail of candy bars led police to the front porch of a home in southeast Albuquerque, where they found Lawrence Jordan.

Jordan, a 20-year homeless man, faces commercial burglary charges for stealing a box of candy bars from a convenience store, according to a criminal complaint.

Bar name offensive

HI HONOLULU — Buddha said, "Everything is changeable." And some Waikiki Buddhists would like to see the name of a local watering hole changed.

Local Buddhists have launched a letter-writing campaign to city and state government agencies to protest the name of the new Buddha Bar.

"In my letter, I said a Christian would find it offensive to see a Jesus Bar," said Poranee Nata-decha-Sponsel, president of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists.

Buddhism is estimated to be the second largest religion in Hawaii after Roman Catholicism.

Ballot nickname axed

FL ORLANDO — A judge axed Doug Gutzloe's plan to use his nickname on the primary ballot for the Republican state committee.

Circuit Court Judge Janet Thorpe ruled Tuesday that Gutzloe hadn't demonstrated a legal right to get the nickname "Ax the Tax" printed on the ballot in the Aug. 31 election.

Gutzloe never produced any evidence to indicate that people really call him by the name of his private corporation and two political action committees he chairs, said an attorney for Orange County Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles.

Farms falling out

UT OGDEN — A surging real estate market and soaring land prices have made farmland scarce in the northern part of the state.

The latest census shows 10 percent loss of farms in the area over a five-year period, more than three times the state average loss of 3 percent. Landholders sell off their property to real estate interests for lucrative prices — far more than they could fetch from farmers.

Longer summer for kids

TX DALLAS — Classes won't start as scheduled for almost 700 students at a North Texas high school because of water damage and unsanitary conditions.

The power has been out at Wilmer-Hutchins High School since June storms and classes won't begin Monday, Superintendent Charles Matthews says.

District officials said Wednesday that the school is not fit for students. There are complaints of roaches, mold and falling ceiling

tiles from roof leaks.

The necessary repairs could take a week or longer.

Not a model employee

VA RICHMOND — She's been praised for her punctuality and gets kudos for not complaining, but Ms. Downsize is no model employee: She's a mannequin.

It was about 10 years ago when two city architects acquired the mannequin from a downtown department store that closed in 1990s.

They named her Ms. Downsize because their office had lost a female receptionist to another department during a downsizing process. The two men still wanted someone to greet visitors, so they placed her on a seat in the foyer.

"She has been a great employee. She never complains. She's always on time," joked Richard C. Morse, a senior city architect.

Rockford going global

IL ROCKFORD — The board of the Greater Rockford Airport Authority approved plans to build a \$650,000 customs and immigration facility for international flights.

The recently renamed Northwest Chicagoland Regional Airport at Rockford, 60 miles northwest of O'Hare International Airport, could offer relief from record flight delays there, officials said. It would process passengers from the Caribbean, Mexico and Europe, though it has not signed agreements with airlines to provide international service, officials said.

Dogs in danger

OR PORTLAND — Police are investigating the discovery of about 60 pieces of sharpened metal shards in an off-leash area of a Portland park.

Officials think the shards may have been buried there to harm dogs. The incident comes a year after a dozen dogs were poisoned in Portland following a dispute over off-leash policies in the city parks. Police say they are looking at any possible connection between the cases.

Rabies vaccine drop

VT BURLINGTON — Low-flying yellow planes will drop thousands of baits laced with rabies vaccine at the end of this month as part of Vermont's annual battle against wildlife rabies.

The flights will be based out of the Newport State Airport in Coventry. They're aimed at vaccinating raccoons, skunks, coyotes and foxes.

"Basically, we'll be flying from the Champlain Islands to the Connecticut River along the Canadian border and from Shelburne to Lyndonville," said Kathy Nelson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Division.

Nelson said the division plans to distribute about 400,000 baits this summer, at a cost of more than \$500,000. The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will assist in the drop.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Past errors demand intel chief

York (Pa.) Daily Record

First of all, let's stop calling it a czar. Wrong country. Wrong connotation. But let's do call the proposed new position a Cabinet member.

Probably the most important suggestion from the bipartisan 9/11 commission's exhaustive and unanimously endorsed study of anti-terrorism efforts was that we need one person in charge of America's 15 intelligence-gathering agencies.

One person to coordinate the spy efforts of the CIA, the FBI and the Defense Department, which controls the majority of the intelligence budget. One woman or man who can sift through the mountains of information collected, make sure the various agencies are sharing and cooperating, and find the terrorist needles in the haystack before they find their targets. ...

He is she would be in charge of the CIA, the FBI and various other agencies — or at least the intelligence aspects of their budgets. That person would have budgetary control, the ability to hire and fire certain directors. In other words, the juice to get things done. ...

What good is a national intelligence director, who doesn't have the power to make law-guarding bureaucrats work together? Isn't that what we already had with Richard Clarke? President Bush should open up his Cabinet to a change of some of the cabinet goods, and make room for an intel chief.

Timing bad for overhaul

The Herald, Rock Hill, S.C.

Election-year politics are fueling plans to install a new terror czar to oversee the nation's intelligence operations. But the timing efforts to overhaul the way intelligence agencies confront terrorism may produce results the nation comes to regret. ...

We think that, contrary to the call for immediate action, the nation should take some time to critically review the commission's proposals and consider which would actually improve our ability to counter the terrorist threat. And while the [9/11] commission report outlines glaring failures on the part of the intelligence agencies, we aren't convinced that a complete overhaul and a new bureaucracy are the answer. ...

We do not mean to belittle the importance of dealing with the threat of terrorism or the work of the 9/11 commission. In fact, we think Congress should empower the commission to remain intact and continue working in an advisory capacity.

We fear that a wholesale intelligence shake-up conducted in the heat of a presidential campaign could do more harm than good.

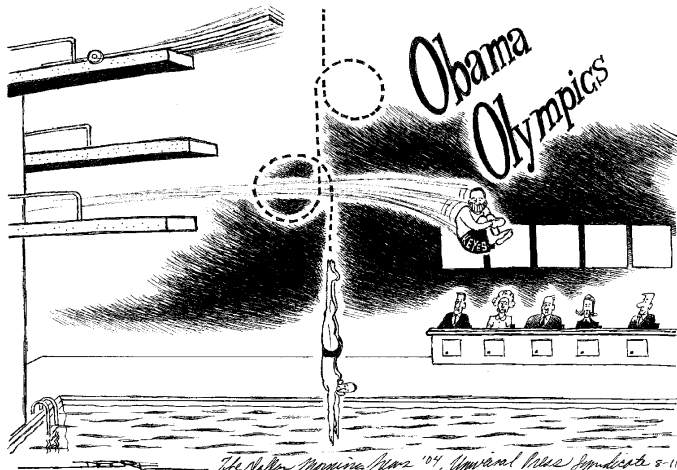
No Electoral College end runs

The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colo.

The United States doesn't hold a popular vote for president. It holds 50 of them. In each of the 50 states, the winner of the popular vote wins all of that state's electoral votes. But some Democrats are trying to change that in Colorado so that a presidential candidate would get only a proportion of the state's electoral votes based on the ratio of popular votes he or she received.

The group Make Your Vote Count has turned a petition drive to propose the proposed change on the ballot in November. And Gov. Bill Owens immediately declared he would like to see the measure on the ballot.

He is right to do so for several reasons. First, despite the denial of initiative backers, the measure is designed to help John Kerry this fall. If voters approve it, it would take effect immediately, before Colorado's electoral votes are cast in December.



Beyond this year's election, however, the measure would be a disaster for Colorado voters. Rather than making their votes count more, they would count less. If candidates could not be assured of winning all nine Colorado electoral votes upon winning the popular vote here, they would have little incentive to focus on Colorado. States with large numbers of electoral votes ... would become even more important.

A 'shout out' to stop rudeness

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Teresa Heinz Kerry may not have reacted ideally to hecklers along the campaign trail, but it's the hecklers who ought to be apologizing. Heinz Kerry, the billionaire wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, was speaking at a rally recently, when pro-Bush spectators began interrupting her with shouts, "Four more years," to which she responded, "Four more years of hell." For that, she is being reviled by Republicans and excoriated by some in the media. It's hard to see why she should be either reviled or excoriated. She isn't the one who started the row. She simply replied to it in candid fashion.

Each year, the campaign trail becomes littered more and more with examples of impoliteness and unabashed rude behavior. The hecklers ... were interrupting a woman invited to deliver a message to an audience. How many people, talking face to face with someone, would drown out the conversation by chanting over the other person's observations? That is plainly beyond tolerable.

Whether Heinz Kerry will define for America once and for all the kind of person who will be the archetype of the presidential spouse will await history. But, surely, neither she nor any other candidate's wife should have to abide such rudeness when stating her opinion.

Payout woe shouldn't crop up

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Talk about a disappointing harvest. A federal initiative that was supposed to reverse years of government bias in lending to thousands of African-American farmers has come up far short.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture pledged to pay as much as \$2.3 billion to tens of thousands of farmers and their families, only about one-third that amount has been distributed. ...

A 1999 legal settlement committed Wash-

ington to redressing racial bias in federal loan programs that all but crippled the livelihoods of thousands of African-American farmers.

Over decades, black farmers were denied loans routinely, or loaned less than white farmers whose credit ratings were similar. The result was a devastating attrition rate, with 40 percent of the nation's black farmers leaving the land since the early 1980s. The legal settlement of farmers' claims called for restitution in the form of expedited cash awards starting at \$50,000 for each farmer. Existing federal loans ranging up to \$150,000 per farm also were to be forgiven, and other steps were planned to provide technical assistance needed to help sustain African-American farmers. ...

Given the shameful bias black farmers were subjected to for years, federal officials should have made sure red tape didn't snarl claims. Instead, their dismal track record has sown more injustice.

Lock door, throw away Keys

Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

Alan Keyes, a conservative commentator from Maryland, probably won't be able to call Sen. Hillary Clinton for advice on planning a listening tour in Illinois, where he recently entered the Senate race.

Four years ago, he was busy hashing her for seeking a Senate seat in a state in which she'd never lived and calling her candidacy a "destruction of federalism." Yet Keyes has foolishly agreed to parachute into Illinois to oppose rising Democratic star Barack Obama.

His out-of-state candidacy isn't the problem. Though this page expressed concern about Hillary Clinton's initial inexperience with matters of New York, she has worked hard to understand the state's needs and represents New York well.

As a former ambassador to the United Nations, a former staff member of the National Security Council and a former Republican presidential candidate, Keyes is equipped to be a national leader. But his impressive credentials should have led him to turn down a candidacy this demeaning.

People value anti-terror arrests

The Denver Post

A string of raids and arrests across the world may signify welcome progress in the war on terrorism — and simultaneously indi-

cate the ongoing nature of terrorist preparations.

Americans and their allies also can hope that the arrests demonstrate improved cooperation and communication among intelligence operatives — a key recommendation of the Sept. 11 commission's report.

The failures before Sept. 11, 2001, are now well documented. Prior to that, cooperation wasn't a priority for the agencies, but "the attacks of 9/11 changed everything," the report noted.

Anti-terror units should be applauded for their recent actions, for it is an ominous time and the arrests underscore worldwide dangers. With the Olympics [now under way] and the U.S. elections growing closer, the public has reason to be vigilant even as law enforcement personnel are making progress.

Goss protected pre-9/11 CIA

Los Angeles Times

Congressional Democrats complain that Rep. Porter Goss, whom President Bush nominated Tuesday to head the CIA, isn't a good choice because he's been sniping at presidential candidate John Kerry. They're wrong. The chief problem with Goss, a Florida Republican, isn't that he's too partisan. It's that Goss has been a paty for the agency he's now supposed to rebuild.

Goss has glittering credentials. The Yale-graduate-turned-CIA-operative amassed considerable experience in covert operations during the 1960s. But the nostalgic haze through which he views the days of the good old boys at the CIA distorted his work with the agency in Congress. As head of the House Intelligence Committee, Goss was responsible for congressional oversight of the CIA before Sept. 11, or more precisely, the lack of it. He's been a tenuous defender of the CIA's perks and privileges and shielded it from any real scrutiny. ...

Goss' passivity suits Bush perfectly. ... He won't fire any senior staff. Most likely, he won't do much of anything. Goss, who has lobbied furiously for the job, including carrying the war for the administration by attacking Kerry, would be happy simply to get the post.

If Bush had more self-confidence, he would have selected someone who would start reforming the CIA, which would mean occasion challenging the president. ...

Bush declared that Goss knows the agency "inside and out." Indeed he does. Unfortunately, Goss loves the CIA not wisely but too well.

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Q I heard that the fiancé of Court TV legal analyst Nancy Grace was murdered. Is it true? — Natalie Johnson, Bloomington, Ill.
A Yes, Grace's fiancé — Keith Griffin, a baseball star at Valdosta State in Georgia — was shot by a criminal in 1980. That horrific event may color her legal analysis of such accused murderers as O.J. Simpson and Scott Peterson. A former prosecutor, Grace will publish her views of the criminal justice system in "Objection!," due out next June.

Q George W. Bush has occupied the White House for almost four years, yet little is known about his personal preferences. Can you fill in the blanks? — J. Brinkley, Los Angeles

A He's a man of simple tastes whose favorite foods are peanut butter (creamy, not chunky) and jelly sandwiches and Fritos. According to Ronald Kessler's "A Matter of Character: Inside the White House of George W. Bush," just out, the health-conscious president brings his own treadmill and nonallergenic pillows on long trips.



Q My son says Nicole Kidman sang on a CD by British pop star Robbie Williams. Was it released here? — W. Skoem, Twin Falls, Idaho

A Only on DVD. Nicole, 37, became friendly with Robbie, 30, after they met socially, and she lent her voice to a playful remake of "Somethin' Stupid" on his 2001 CD "Swing When You're Winning." It was only released in Europe, but an American DVD titled "Live at the Albert" features a video of Robbie and Nicole's duet. Incidentally, Robbie sings the title song in the film "De-Lovely."

A Actress Nicole Kidman sang a duet with Robbie Williams on his 2001 CD "Swing When You're Winning." However, it's not available in the United States — it was only sold in Europe.

actor David Street, 22 days to director Budd Boetticher and 16 years to Texas oilman Ling-Chieh Kung. The reclusive star, who turns 71 this week as her Houston home, says: "I don't want to be contacted by anyone about anything."

Q Oprah Winfrey proved she could act in "The Color Purple." Why don't we see more of her on the big screen? — Nyasha Smith, Hartford, Conn.

A Because she's been busy running the No. 1 TV talk show and a successful magazine. But a close friend tells us, "Oprah certainly is open to the right role." We hope Hollywood is listening.



TV host Oprah Winfrey hasn't appeared on the big screen in some time, but that doesn't mean she wouldn't take the right role.



Hugh Jackman, left, star of the Broadway hit "The Boy From Oz," talks with New York Yankees manager Joe Torre before a game Aug. 3. "Oz" producers say they won't do a film version of the show without Jackman.

Q Any chance that Hugh Jackman will do a film version of "The Boy From Oz," his Broadway hit about Peter Allen? — Kay Rice, Edwards, Ill.

A More than just a chance. The producers tell us they wouldn't dream of doing an "Oz" film without the talented Jackman, 35. But it will have to wait until after the Broadway show closes next month and Jackman shoots Darren Aronofsky's sci-fi film "The Fountain." There also are discussions to bring stage versions to London and Sydney, and we suspect its producers will launch the show in other big cities to earn the maximum before putting "Oz" on film.

Q Geena Davis recently had twins at 48. Did she need special medical assistance? — R.C., Boston, Mass.

A Geena isn't talking, but it is likely that the actress used an egg donor to conceive her sons, Kian and Kaiis. They were delivered via C-section. Davis and her fourth husband, surgeon Reza Jarraby, 33, also have daughter, Alizeh, 2.

Q Playboy celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. How long has Christie Hefner been running the magazine? Is she married? — T.M., Marietta, Ga.

A Christie Hefner, 51, has been married since 1995 to William Marovitz, a real-estate developer. They have no children. Since taking over the reins of Playboy Enterprises from her dad in 1988, she's become one of America's most successful businesswomen, expanding her company into a consumer products and multimedia brand that generates \$320 million a year. We give mega-male chauvinist Hugh, 78, credit for nurturing his daughter's potential.

Q What's your take on Britney Spears' plan to wed dancer Kevin Federline? — Mary McLaughlin, Devon, Pa.

A We're hoping for an intervention by Mom. Spears, though she apparently approves of \$40,000 to Kevin, 26, for her own engagement ring, the befuddled Britney, 22, will end up paying child support for his two out-of-wedlock kids.

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A Singer Britney Spears probably shouldn't envision a lifetime of happiness with fiancé Kevin Federline, since she's already had to shell out \$40,000 for her own engagement ring.

YOUR MONEY

All good jobs come to those who wait

Susie Besaw, from the book *"The Savvy Sailor's Spouse,"* is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week, Susie and Jake talked about the economics of her working.

The next week felt like the longest one of my life. At my last job, I asked my uncle for a reference and I was given the job the next day. None of this "hurry up and send your résumé and wait" stuff. Here I was dealing with strangers when I may never meet for a job I hoped would be challenging. It all seemed uncertain and unfair.

On Wednesday, I called Carol and asked her if it was OK to call the NEX now. She said to give it a couple more days. She might as well have told me to wait another year. I wanted a job. I remained as calm as I could and thanked her.

I decided to go for a walk to burn off some nervous energy. I thought about the rest of the pile of rum raisin in the freezer, but remembered it didn't help last time. Besides, I was sure Jake would want some for dessert.

When Jake came home Wednesday night, I told him how frustrated I was waiting for a call for a job that I may or may not get. He just gave me a big hug and told me all good things were worth waiting for, and I thanked him for his support. We agreed if I didn't hear something by Friday, I'd start calling different companies — even if the job's locations weren't convenient.

Finally, on Friday when I was about to call Carol to set up another appointment, the phone rang.

"Ms. Besaw, Mrs. Thompson at NEX," she replied. "I have your résumé here for the inventory computer support job. The head of that department, Mr. Mickey, wants you to come down for an interview next week. Are you still available?"

"Yes, ma'am," I replied. "When were you thinking?"

"How about Monday at 9 a.m.?" she replied.

"Monday at 9 a.m. sounds fine," I replied, trying to be as

calm as I could be.

"Just come into the exchange and ask them to page me," she said. "I'll take you back to Mr. Mickey. Please be prompt — Mr. Mickey has three other interviews that morning."

Three other interviews. I thought, feeling less excited at the thought of having that much competition.

"Yes, ma'am," I replied. "I'll be there."

Friday night, Jake and I went out to celebrate. My first interview as a married woman! Jake tried to be supportive but also wanted me to keep my expectations realistic. I was competing with three other applicants, possibly more. I was confident I would win the job — but would Mr. Mickey agree?

The whole weekend I read and reread my database books trying to think of all the tough relational database questions he could ask. I went on the Web and downloaded the latest manuals and scanned them for any big updates.

On Sunday night, Jake came over to me when I was reading in my comfy chair, papers stacked all around me and said, "Enough, lady. It's time to go eat some dinner, relax and go to bed early. You need to be rested if you want to make a good impression tomorrow."

And relax we did — after I picked out my best suit and the perfect accessories to complement it. Jake took me out to dinner, put my favorite movie and smuggled with me until I fell asleep.

Then, after I went to sleep, I am sure he pushed me back on my side of the bed and read one of his thick, boring technical manuals for another hour.

Next week, Susie has her interview.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — *"The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer"* — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20840 or online at www.savvy-onweb.com. The books are available for purchase or sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. Send for feedback to finance@stripes.osd.mil

Money U.



Ralph Nelson



SHNS

A Delta 757 takes off from Memphis International Airport in Tennessee. Frequent flier programs with Delta and other airlines have received criticism. Said one customer: "Unless you're flying to Des Moines, Iowa, in the winter on a Tuesday night, it's almost impossible to get a free ticket."

Airlines try to take frustration out of frequent-flier programs

Airways industry aims to make rewards easier to use

BY SUZANNE MARTA

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — After collecting tens of thousands of miles in airline loyalty programs and setting aside a ticket to anywhere — on any airline.

"I'm shocked when I can use my 'Advantage miles,'" he said. Responding to such concerns, some carriers are trotting out new tools and offers to make their programs more flier-friendly.

Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines Inc. has launched a special online calendar that allows customers to check for dates when seats are available for certain awards in its Advantage program.

Low-cost carrier AirTran Airways Inc. recently announced it would buy its best customers a free ticket to anywhere — on any airline.

Even as the airline industry struggles financially, loyalty programs remain critical marketing tools to maintain dialogues with customers so they keep coming back.

Consumers hold more than 8.5 trillion unused miles and more than half reflect activity on the ground, not in the air.

Michie Miller, a nurse from Hickory Creek, Texas, collects miles on all of Dallas' biggest carriers — American, Delta Air Lines Inc. and Southwest Airlines Co.

But Miller and her husband are careful to use their Advantage-branded Citibank card for almost everything they purchase.

"We even use it to pay utility bills," she said. For members of loyalty programs, it's never been easier to accumulate huge balances through credit-card purchases, trips to grocery stores and dinners in restaurants.

Now, it may be getting easier to redeem miles, too.

American quietly introduced its new Advantage tool in July.

The Advantage Hotspots calendar, which extends five months and is updated weekly, is limited to a few destinations while a more complete version is developed.

"We're trying to make it easier for our customers to redeem awards," said Kurt Stache, who recently took over as president of Advantage, the world's largest frequent-flier program with nearly 50 million members.

Previously, a traveler's best hope to get a broad view on seat availability was to check day-by-day online or reach a patient reservations agent on the phone willing to do the same thing.

American has made other efforts in recent months to improve its customers' experience with the Advantage program.

The carrier eliminated a \$100 ticket change fee on certain award tickets that had irritated customers when it was imposed in September 2002.

American is also offering mileage bonuses for redeeming award flights online, as it has for ticket purchases.

Southwest's Rapid Rewards program is intended to reinforce the Dallas-based carrier's easy-to-understand style of doing business.

Free tickets are earned based on the number of flights flown, rather than distance. Southwest awards can be used to go anywhere in its flight network.

Restrictions are minimal, and tickets can be used as long as there's space on the aircraft. Traditional carriers allow only a limited number of "award" seats per flight.

Southwest even sends \$12 worth of drink coupons to use during the flight.

For those reasons, the Dallas-based carrier has been hailed for the last several years as having the "Best Award Redemption" among frequent-flier programs.

SEE PROGRAMS ON PAGE 31

"We're trying to make it easier for our customers to redeem awards."

Kurt Stache

President of Advantage, the world's largest frequent-flier program



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Saints' Smith building for future after NFL

Linebacker developing backup plan with real estate business in Fla.

By MARY FOSTER
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — There is more than a playbook in New Orleans Saints linebacker Darrin Smith's locker this summer.

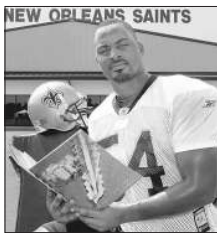
Smith has a couple of slick files in easy reach — one for the \$30 million condominiums his company just completed, one for the \$90 million Hilton Hotel he hopes to begin constructing in Miami Beach this fall.

"I always knew the NFL was an iffy proposition," Smith said. "I knew the odds were against me, so I wanted to have a backup plan."

Chalk it up to competitiveness, to being business wise as well as football smart, or to looking ahead. Whatever it was, back in the 1980s, when University of Miami players were known for big-time talent and renegade behavior, Smith was hitting the field and the books.

He left the Hurricanes after five years with All-American honors, an undergraduate degree in business management and organization and a master's degree in marketing, making him one of only five NFL players with a master's.

"I think it was being a competitive person," Smith said. "I wanted to beat everybody on the classroom and on the field. Plus, I knew that the odds of making it in the NFL were long and even if you made it, careers are usually short."



New Orleans Saints linebacker Darrin Smith poses with a file on one of his properties during training camp on Wednesday. Smith has built up a lucrative real estate business in south Florida.

A second-round pick by the Dallas Cowboys, he's entering his 12th season in the NFL. He has been with the Saints, his fourth NFL team, since 2000. He started 10 games last year, 15 in 2002 and all 16 the two previous years. Playing both inside and outside linebacker, Smith posted a career-high 123 tackles in 2002.

"What Darrin gives us is a lot of stability," defensive coordinator Rick Venturi said. "He's an experienced veteran. I think he's able to be a director out there. The guy's always a better player than people expect."

And while building his reputation on the field, he has built a lucrative real estate business in south Florida.

"It's what I try to tell the young players all the time," Smith said. "You'll probably have a short life in football, three or four years. And the reality is, it's going to be hard to make the same type of money after football no matter what you do, but you're probably going to have the same bills. So if you want to maintain the same lifestyle, you have to prepare yourself for afterward."

His senior year at Miami, Smith interned with a financial firm.

"I wanted to understand how money works," Smith said. "I thought, 'If football doesn't work out, let me study this and see how it works.' And I had an opportunity to see real-life situations, including how wealthy people really live. The reality is, a lot of wealthy people, you wouldn't even know they were wealthy. They drive regular cars, they have regular clothes, they have nice homes but nothing really extravagant. So I patterned myself after that."

In his second year in the league, Smith started buying duplexes.

He went on to condos and houses, then started renovating warehouses and decided it was time to move to bigger things.

"I took the time to go to real estate school and get my license," Smith said.

"I've just always believed that whatever you do you've got to throw yourself into it. So that's what I do in the preseason. When I'm not playing football, I'm learning about real estate and ways to make money, ways to invest."

Smith and Richmond Webb, who played 11 seasons with the Miami Dolphins, pooled their resources and formed SWH Holding Corp.

"I've always been a great believer in guys getting together and making their money work for them while we can," Smith said.

They are currently selling condominiums in the building they built in Fort Lauderdale, called Terraces of the Isle. The five-story building on the Intercoastal Waterway has 14 luxury condos, as well as dock space for residents' boats.

This fall they hope to begin construction on a Hilton condominium hotel on Miami Beach, "Fantasy of the Ocean," which will have 153 luxury units and 150 feet of beach front.

Smith has encouraged his teammates and other players to get involved in real estate.

"I had an organization in the past called Access to Capital Group," Smith said. "I started that in 1995 because I saw a lot of guys in the league playing a while and some of them leaving without much funds or much for the future. I started that group so guys could get together and make their money work where everybody could become successful."

The idea didn't get much response. It's hard to convince a player in his early 20s that the big money might not last, so now Smith tries to convince teammates on a one-to-one basis. Three Saints players are attending real estate school.

The business is growing, but Smith, 35, isn't ready to become a full-time businessman.

"Right now," he said, "my mind's on football and my motivation is winning."

Brady overshadows Owens, Dillon in win

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — On a rainy Friday night when controversial stars made their debuts with new teams, Terrell Owens with Philadelphia and Corey Dillon with New England, two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady was steady in a 24-6 win over the Eagles.

In his first game since the Patriots' second championship in three years, Brady went 3-for-4 for 31 yards and a touchdown. He left the exhibition opener after two series and 11 plays.

Rohan Davey, recently chosen offensive player of the year in NFL Europe, threw two scoring passes, improving his bid to move up to the No. 2 quarterback spot in his third season with the Patriots.

The Eagles lost the last three NFC championship games and hope Owens, acquired from San Francisco, can get them beyond that.

He caught three passes for 14 yards and fans booed all three times. After each one, he walked calmly back to the huddle, shoving none of the flamboyance that followed some catches with the 49ers — once autographing a football in the field after scoring a touchdown.

Owens and Donovan McNabb

played the first four series and left after the Eagles' first possession of the second quarter. McNabb was 6-for-11 for 32 yards, no touchdowns and no interceptions.

Dillon, often at odds with management during seven seasons with Cincinnati, had five runs for 23 yards.

Giants 34, Chiefs 24: The much-anticipated home debut of Eli Manning was upstaged by another once highly regarded New York Giants first-round draft pick.

Ron Dayne showed flashes of his Heisman Trophy days, scoring on runs of 29 and 67 yards, and Jesse Palmer, television's "The Bachelor," threw a game-winning 11-yard touchdown pass with 6:32 to play. The win in Tom Coughlin's preseason debut as coach wasn't pretty.

Trent Green and the Chiefs gained 311 first-half yards and scored on four of five possessions in shredding the Giants' rebuilding defense. If they'd stayed in, the game would not have been close.

Manning's No. 1 pick in the NFL draft by San Diego and the traded to the Giants, played about two quarters with mostly a backup crew. He was 7-for-13 for 91 yards after getting a big ovation when he took over from Kurt Warner (3-for-7 for 49 yards) in the second quarter.

The big story for the Giants



New York Giants running back Ron Dayne breaks through the line to run 29 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter against the Kansas City Chiefs on Friday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

was the revival of Dayne, who was inactive for all 16 games last season despite being healthy.

Saints 23, Jets 13: J.T. O'Sullivan made the most of his second NFL appearance, completing 10 of 13 passes for 141 yards as the Saints' reserves beat the Jets'

backups in New Orleans. O'Sullivan, who played for Division I-AA California-Davis and was the second-highest ranked quarterback in NFL Europe this spring, made his only other NFL appearance in a 2002 preseason game.

Saints quarterback Aaron

Brooks was on the sideline with a tender quadricpes.

The Jets used regular QB Chad Pennington for one series. He ran 10 plays, went 3-for-5 for 20 yards, and got the Jets close enough for a 22-yard field goal by Doug Brien and a 3-0 lead.

Singh, Leonard lead assault on docile Whistling Straits

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

HAVEN, Wis. — From top to bottom, the PGA Championship delivered some major drama on Friday.

The two best players battled across Whistling Straits until Vijay Singh wound up in a share of the lead and Ernie Els settled in one shot behind.

The No. 1 player fought just to make the cut.

"I gave it everything I had," Tiger Woods said after three birdies over his final six holes spared him the embarrassment of going home early for the first time in 129 tournaments and the first ever as a professional in a major.

Desperate to end an 0-for-18 streak in the majors, Singh kept his mistakes to a minimum on the other mid day along the shores of Lake Michigan, shooting a 4-under 68 to join Justin Leonard at the leader board.

Despite blunders on the par 5s, Els and Darren Clarke stayed right on their heels.

Briny Baird also was one shot behind, unless 102 starts on the PGA Tour, which makes him a perfect candidate to win the final major. Thirteen of the past 16 winners in the PGA Championship had never won a major, and three had never won on tour.

By the time thousands of fans staggered off the sand dunes lining the fairways on the links-site, which they surely anticipated what figured to be a wild weekend with so much at stake for so many players.

For Singh and Els, a chance to supplant Woods as No. 1 in the world.

■ For Leonard and Chris Dimarco, hopes of making the Ryder Cup team.

■ For Woods, a shot — albeit a long one — to end his 0-for-9 drought in the majors.

The leader board was loaded with big names, all of them on top of their games on a Whistling

Tiger Woods made two birdies on the final three holes Friday to finish 36 holes one shot under the cut line of 1-over par.

Straits course that again failed to scare them, despite playing all of its 7,514 yards.

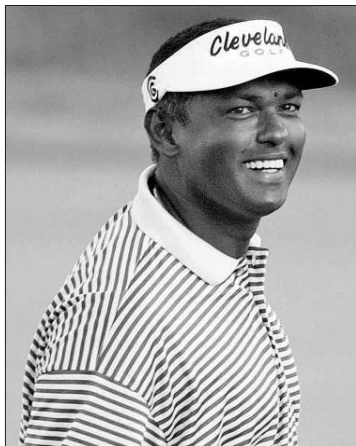
Leonard, who must win to have any chance of making the Ryder Cup team, holed a couple of 25-foot birdie putts in a solid round of 69 that put him at 9-under 135 and in the final group Saturday with Singh.

Els had control of the tournament with four birdies on his first 10 holes to reach 10-under, but he let it slip away with a couple of wounding drives on the par 5s, making bogey on both of them for a 70.

Clarke was among four players tied for the lead at one point late in the round, despite misunderstanding his caddy and aiming at the wrong television tower on the par-5 11th, leading to a comical journey through some of Whistling Straits' 1,400 bunkers and giving him a double bogey.

He wound up with a 71 and was at 136 with Els and Baird (69).

And while Woods was lucky to simply stick around, he wasn't counting himself out at even-par 144.



Vijay Singh has not won a major since the 2000 Masters, but has seven top-10 finishes in the 18 Grand Slam tournaments since then.

Leader board

Second-round leaders in the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, Straits Course in Haven, Wis.	
Justin Leonard	-9
Vijay Singh	-9
Briny Baird	-8
Darren Clarke	-8
Ernie Els	-8
Chris Dimarco	-6
Stephen Ames	-6
K.J. Choi	-5
Padrraig Harrington	-5
Chris Riley	-5

Full-field scores on Page 38

"The leaders didn't go too far away," he said. "Hopefully, I can shoot one of the scores they shot and put myself back in the ballgame."

Even so, the guys he is chasing seem to be playing a different game.

Singh, who has struggled the past two years when paired with Woods, beat him by eight shots in the opening round and showed him how to get it done again on Friday. He kept the ball in play off the tee, making his only two bogeys when his drives strayed into the bunkers and tall fescue. And he looks silky with the putter.

Despite winning eight times in the past two years and again leading the PGA Tour money list, Singh has led chances slip away in the majors. He last won one in the 2000 Masters.

"I've been in position to win majors, but I haven't finished the job," he said. "I feel my game is coming around because my putting has improved. This is another opportunity."

It's also another chance for Leonard in the PGA. He was tied for the lead going into the final round at Winged Foot in 1997 but lost by five to Davis Love III. Two years ago at Hazeltine, he had a three-shot lead on Sunday and shot 77 to finish tied for fourth.

"I tend to learn more in failure than I do in success," Leonard said.

USC starts in familiar position

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Southern California will begin defense of its first national title in 31 years as the No. 1 team in the nation.

The Trojans earned the top spot in the preseason Associated Press poll released Saturday by receiving 48 of 65 first-place votes and 1,603 points.

It's the first time since 1979 the Trojans are preseason No. 1 and the fourth time overall. They also started No. 1 in 1963 and '73.

Oklahoma, which was No. 1 for most of last season before losing its final two games, was No. 2 with 11 first-place votes and 1,529 points in the media poll. Heisman Trophy winner Jason White leads the Sooners.

No. 3 Florida State and No. 6 Miami open the regular season against each other on Sept. 6.

The Trojans enter the season with a nine-game winning streak.

The Trojans return only nine starters from last year's team that set Pac-10 records for touchdowns (68) and points (534). Matt Leinart, who threw for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns in his first season as a starter, directs an offense that is lacking only in experience.

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press preseason college football poll, with first-place votes and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and total ranking.

	First Pys	Total Pys
1. Southern Cal (48)	121	1,603
2. Oklahoma (36)	121	1,529
3. Florida State (3)	13	1,446
4. LSU (1)	13	1,446
5. Miami (1)	11	1,289
6. Michigan (1)	11	1,289
7. Texas Tech (1)	9	1,237
8. West Virginia (1)	8	1,173
9. Texas (1)	8	1,173
10. Kansas St. (1)	11	763
11. California (1)	10	658
12. Tennessee (1)	10	658
13. Clemson (1)	10	658
14. Virginia (1)	8	627
15. Auburn (1)	8	546
16. Missouri (1)	8	546
17. Iowa (1)	10	446
18. Maryland (1)	10	410
19. Purdue (1)	8	409
20. Minnesota (1)	10	132
21. Wake Forest (1)	10	132
22. N.C. State (1)	10	132
23. N.C. State (1)	10	132
24. Fresno St. (1)	10	132
25. Illinois (1)	10	132
26. Marshall (1)	10	132
27. Marshall (1)	10	132
28. Marshall (1)	10	132
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43. Marshall (1)	10	132
44. Marshall (1)	10	132
45. Marshall (1)	10	132
46. Marshall (1)	10	132
47. Marshall (1)	10	132
48. Marshall (1)	10	132
49. Marshall (1)	10	132
50. Marshall (1)	10	132

Request for delay denied in Bryant case

By JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

DENVER — Jury selection in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case is still on track to begin this month after the judge denied prosecutors' request for an indefinite delay in the trial.

The state, however, won a partial victory Friday when District Judge Thomas Ruckriegle handed down two other rulings that limit or prohibit potentially damaging testimony about the accused's mental health, purported suicide attempts and use of drugs or alcohol.

Bryant has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault and has said he had consensual sex with a woman at the Vail-area resort where she worked.

Invicted, the 25-year-old player faces four years in life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Legal analysts say the favorable rulings could be

of little use because an earlier ruling allows the defense to introduce evidence about the woman's alleged sexual activity around the time of her encounter with Bryant. Prosecutors have appealed that ruling to the Colorado Supreme Court.

"Keeping out her drug or alcohol or psychiatric records doesn't give you another good fact, all it does is say there's some bad facts that aren't going to come in," said Larry Pozner, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

In another development that complicated prosecutors' task, attorneys for the accused filed a civil lawsuit against Bryant in federal court earlier this week. Defense attorney Pamela Mackey said in a filing made public Friday that the lawsuit showed the woman was pursuing a false allegation in "the hope of a large monetary award."

Prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said prosecutors planned to go to trial as scheduled. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Aug. 27.

Steelers' Batch out for year

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch underwent season-ending

NFL briefs

knee surgery and was placed on injured reserve Friday.

Batch, in his seventh NFL season, had soreness in his knee this week and doctors found damage during an MRI on Thursday.

The Steelers signed quarterback Kurt Kittner to replace Batch on the roster.

Kittner, entering his third NFL season, spent the past two seasons with the Atlanta Falcons.

Kittner was to be with the Steelers in Denver for the preseason opener Saturday night.

Bills CB Thomas out with broken bone in hand

PITTSBURGH, N.Y. — Cornerback Kevin Thomas cracked a bone in his left hand and is expected to miss the Buffalo Bills' preseason opener against Denver on Sunday.

Coach Mike Mularkey said Friday that he doesn't expect Thomas to be out for an extended period. Thomas was hurt during practice Thursday.

Thomas is a two-year veteran competing with Terrence McGee to be the team's third cornerback.

Armstrong planning to ride in another Tour de France

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Lance Armstrong says he'll ride in at least one more Tour de France. But at 32, even he knows that retirement may not be far off.

So then what? The six-time winner of arguably the world's most grueling sporting event will eventually have to find something else to stoke his competitive fires.

"I need to do something. Golf won't do it," Armstrong joked at a news conference before a parade and concert in his honor in downtown Austin on Friday night.

"I've got some friends who ride," he said, "but I don't think they would want to be that punching bag."

He might not have to leave racing. Armstrong said once he racks his bike for good, he'd like to keep his hands in it.

"It would make me very proud to be able to retire and stay involved in a program and continue to win the Tour with somebody



Lance Armstrong

else," he said. "Use my experience and time on a bike to help another person."

He suggested Ukrainian stand-out Yaroslav Popovych, who recently signed a three-year deal with Armstrong's newly sponsored Discovery Channel team, could be that rider.

"We think he's a rider of the future in the Tour de France," Armstrong said.

Popovych has two top-five finishes in the Giro d'Italia (2003-2004).

Armstrong didn't say if he will race the Tour de France next year or 2006. He is considering focusing on other races in 2005.

"I think I have another year or two in me. That's not just a random number. It's what I think that my body can stand," he said.

Gordon hoping to capitalize on front-row start at Glen

Last year's race ended in disappointment despite record-breaking run in qualifying

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Jeff Gordon is back on the front row for the Sirius at the Glen, and with teammate Jimmie Johnson alongside him he is at ease.

"I feel good about that," Gordon said after qualifying was rained out Friday, putting Johnson, the Nextel Cup points leader, on the pole. "We shouldn't have any problem getting through the first couple of turns. I don't need to talk to Jimmy, maybe Greg Biffle, but I don't think he's starting behind me."

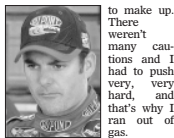
He isn't, but last year Biffle did, and it cost Gordon dearly.

After breaking the track record in qualifying at Watkins Glen International and winning the pole, Gordon's chances for his fifth win at the track disappeared in a cloud of smoke on the first turn when Biffle, a rookie who started second, spun him out.

Despite the early setback, Gordon responded with one of his best drives on a road course. Entering the final lap, he had rallied the No. 24 Dupont Chevrolet from last place all the way back to third.

But he unexpectedly ran out of gas and was hit twice from behind, first by Dale Earnhardt Jr., then by Kevin Harvick, and wound up facing the wrong way against the wall just 200 feet from the finish line.

"I've never driven a car that hard," said Gordon, who finished 33rd. "I mean, every single lap was on the edge, just pushing it to the extreme limits because I knew how much ground we had



Jeff Gordon

to make up. There weren't many cautions and I had to push very hard, and that's why I ran out of gas."

"Your best performance doesn't always match the results or the statistics," said Gordon, who has won a record eight NASCAR road races. "I like to think that up until that last lap, that was definitely one of my best."

Johnson, who finished fourth at Watkins Glen last year, has never led a lap on a road course in five races. And he wasn't thinking about breaking that streak on the first lap this Sunday.

"Between the two of us and the respect we have for one another and our desire to finish the race, I don't think there would be an issue between teammates," said Johnson, who leads Gordon by 97 points. "I think I'll probably leave him some extra room and we'll get it sorted out and go from there."

The rest of the top 10 starters, also set by car-owner points, were Earnhardt, Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth, Elliott Sadler, Kurt Busch, Bobby Labonte, Harvick and Ryan Newman. Road race ace Boris Said and Scott Pruett didn't make the field, but Canadian star Ron Fellows was awarded the final slot.

"I'm starting 43rd, but we're in the show and that's all that mat-

Sirius at the Glen lineup

Rain washed out qualifying; field set by 2004 car-owner points

Sat. Sunday

At Watkins Glen International

Lap length 2.48 miles

1. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet

2. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet

3. (18) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet

4. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet

5. (19) Kurt Busch, Ford

6. (38) Elliott Sadler, Ford

7. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet

8. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet

9. (21) Ryan Newman, Dodge

10. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge

11. (29) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet

12. (18) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge

13. (41) Mark Martin, Ford

14. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge

15. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge

16. (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge

17. (13) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet

18. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge

19. (15) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet

20. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford

21. (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet

22. (30) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet

23. (31) Scott Wimmer, Chevrolet

24. (30) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet

25. (31) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

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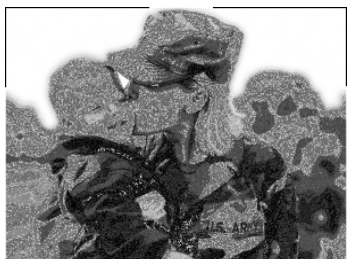
76. (31) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

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80. (31) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet



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The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — A multi-player trade between the Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics was amended Friday after Gary Payton refused to report to Boston for a physical by a deadline, the Lakers said.

A Celtics spokesman said Boston had agreed in advance to waive the requirement that Payton undergo a physical exam on Friday.

"The team waived his physical as part of the amended trade," Celtics spokesman Bill Boswell said. "The (physical) obviously became moot as part of this deal."

The amended trade will give Los Angeles 6-of-8 forward Jimmie Johnson instead of guard Marcus Banks, and Boston will no longer be required to give up its second-round draft choice.

Lakers spokesman John Black said the trade had to be amended because it was contingent on all

Sports briefs

players reporting to their new teams for physicals by Friday afternoon.

"Gary Payton refused to go to Boston and do that," Black said. Boston waived the Payton contingency, and in consideration the Lakers had to switch terms of the deal, he said.

The Celtics expect Payton to report for training camp Oct. 4, Boswell said.

Forward Jefferson signs new contract with Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Forward Richard Jefferson has signed a six-year, \$78 million contract extension with the New Jersey Nets.

Jefferson, currently in Greece as a member of the U.S. Olympic team, agreed to the deal last week and the Nets announced on Friday that he had signed it. He would have become a restricted

free agent next season.

Jefferson averaged a team-high 18.5 points and 38.2 minutes a game last season. Jefferson also averaged 5.7 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 1.1 steals a game, and appeared in a career-high 82 games.

IBF middle champ Hopkins wins lawsuit against promoter

DENVER — A federal judge has awarded IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins \$1.79 million in damages in a breach-of-contract lawsuit against his former promoter.

U.S. District Judge John Kane also ordered American Presents, Ltd., Hopkins' promoter in the late 1990s, to pay Hopkins' attorney fees, according to court documents made public Friday.

Hopkins was sued by the Colorado-based promoter in February 1998 after Hopkins sought to end their relationship. The case ended in a mistrial in April 2000 and Hopkins countersued.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division	L	Pct	GB
New York Yankees	74	41.563	107.5
Baltimore Orioles	56	40.417	179.5
Tampa Bay Rays	44	46.290	201.5
Toronto Blue Jays	68	48.246	261.5

Central Division	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota Twins	63	52.548	—
Chicago White Sox	58	51.514	4
Seattle Mariners	61	47.071	9
Kansas City Royals	61	37.261	21.5

West Division	L	Pct	GB
Oakland Athletics	64	51.257	—
Los Angeles Angels	72	54.471	11
Anaheim Angels	63	53.543	11
San Diego Padres	59	37.214	21.5

Friday's games	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore at Toronto	1	0	0
Chicago White Sox at Boston	7	0	0
Minnesota at Cleveland	2	0	0
Texas at Tampa Bay	1	0	0
N.Y. Yankees at Seattle	3	0	0
Seattle at Anaheim	1	0	0
Kansas City at Oakland	3	0	0

Saturday's games	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore at Toronto	1	0	0
N.Y. Yankees at Seattle	1	0	0
Kansas City at Oakland	1	0	0
Chicago White Sox at Boston	1	0	0
Tampa Bay at Texas	1	0	0
Detroit at Anaheim	1	0	0

Sunday's games	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore (Cabrera 9-9) at Toronto	1	0	0
Minnesota (Mullins 3-4) at Cleveland	1	0	0
Tampa Bay (Goswami 3-4) at Texas	1	0	0
Chicago White Sox (Garland 8-8) at Boston	1	0	0
Seattle (Arnesen 4-4) at Anaheim	1	0	0
N.Y. Yankees (Brown 9-2) at Seattle	1	0	0
Detroit (Johnson 8-10) at Anaheim	1	0	0
Kansas City (Gronke 4-4) at Oakland	1	0	0

Monday's games	L	Pct	GB
Oakland at Baltimore	1	0	0
Toronto at Boston	1	0	0
Cleveland at Texas	1	0	0

Friday

BALTIMORE	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Bjornson	5	2	1	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Nielsen	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Morbo	3	1	1	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Adams	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Pirra	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
McInnis	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Surhoff	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Harmon	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	36	41.4	24.5	20	5.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Seattle	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Law (7)	DP	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0	0	0	0
Johnson (7)	DP	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0	0	0	0
Johnson (7)	DP	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0	0	0	0
Rios (7)	DP	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0	0	0	0

Indians 8, Twins 2

Indians	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Minnesota	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Indians	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Minnesota	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Indians	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Minnesota	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Indians	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Minnesota	ab	r	h	e	bb	so	IP	W	L	Pct	GB
Shstorf	5	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Cossm	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Thorpe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Minnab	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Toronto	34	20.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Minnesota						
CSilva L,10-8	2	6	6	6	1	0
Guerrier	1 ² / ₃	3	2	2	2	1
Roa	4	4	0	0	2	3
Genie	1 ¹ / ₃	0	0	0	0	0

Phillies victim of a Snow job

Giants first baseman hits three homers; S.F. moves one game back in wild card

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — J.T. Snow hit three home runs in a game for the first time in his career, and his manager hardly noticed.

"I thought it was two," San Francisco's Felipe Alou said. "He hit three?"

He sure did. The Giants first baseman also scored a career-best five runs and had four RBIs in a 16-6 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night.

"I wasn't going for the fences in any at-bat," Snow said. "I was just trying to hit it hard and drive the ball like I do every at-bat."

Snow, who had just six homers coming in, hit a two-run shot off Brett Myers in the first inning, a solo shot in the fifth and another solo homer in the seventh — both off Anibal Sanchez. He also walked twice. He struck out in the ninth.

Barry Bonds hit career homer No. 689, A.J. Pierzynski homered and drove in five runs, and Marquis Grissom also homered for the Giants, who moved one game behind Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Bonds went 2-for-2, scored three runs, had two RBIs and was walked three times, twice intentionally. The two intentional

walks gave him a major league-high 86, and helped the Giants break their 2-year-old major league record with 104 intentional walks.

Bonds also moved into 14th place on the career RBIs list with 1,814, passing Frank Robinson.

Brad Hennessey (1-1) earned his first big league victory in his second career start. Myers (7-9) allowed six runs and walked five in three innings, the sixth start this year he failed to pitch at least five innings.

Cardinals 4, Braves 1: Woody Williams won his sixth straight decision, Albert Pujols and Larry Walker homered, and visiting St. Louis won the opener in a series between division leaders.

Williams (9-6) allowed three hits and one run in seven innings as St. Louis stretched its NL Central lead over the Chicago Cubs to 13½ games.

Dodgers 8, Cubs 1: Odalis Perez outstreaked Greg Maddux before the streaking Dodgers pulled away.

Leading 2-1, the Dodgers scored six times in the fifth inning, taking advantage of host Chicago's wilting bullpen and the Cubs' wobbly defense. The NL West leaders won for the 28th time in 37 games.

Perez (6-4) gave up six hits and a run in



Milwaukee's Brady Clark steals second while Florida's Alex Gonzalez awaits a late throw.

6½ innings. In his first start since winning his 300th game last Saturday in San Francisco, Maddux (11-8) gave up eight hits and two runs in 6½ innings.

Rockies 9, Pirates 3: Luis Gonzalez, a late addition to Colorado's starting lineup, hit a three-run homer and Jeff Fassero (3-8) pitched seven innings.

Vinny Castilla and Preston Wilson also homered for the visiting Rockies, who have won 13 of 17 on the road.

Mets 10, Diamondbacks 6: Rookie Danny Garcia hit a three-run homer and Richard Hidalgo and Mike Cameron also connected for the host Mets.

It was the eighth straight loss for the Diamondbacks and their 82nd this season, guaranteeing the team that will win the World Series in 2001 will finish with a sub-.500 record.

Kris Benson (9-9) earned his first victory for the Mets after being acquired from Pittsburgh on July 30.

Padres 14, Reds 5: Rookie Khalil Greene had his first two-homer game and Brian Giles and Ryan Klesko each connected in a five-run first inning for visiting San Diego.

Greene also set career highs with four hits and four RBIs and scored four times as the Padres set a season high for runs.

Brewers 6, Marlins 4: Wes Obermueller (4-6) gave up two hits in seven shutout innings in an emergency start and earned his first victory since May 29.

Russell Branyan and Lyle Overbay each hit two-run homers for the host Brewers, who won for just the third time in 10 games.

Expos 6, Astros 5 (12): Alex Gonzalez hit a tying homer in the 12th inning and Tim Lincecum singled in the winning run. Host Montreal's Jon Rauch became the second pitcher to homered off Roger Clemens before an injury forced him to abandon a no-hit bid with two outs in the fifth.

Cubs' Hawkins loses appeal

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Cubs reliever LaTroy Hawkins began serving a three-game suspension Friday after his appeal was rejected. His fine was reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000.

After giving up a tiebreaking homer in the ninth to the Cardinals' Albert Pujols on July 20 at Wrigley Field, Hawkins was ejected after yelling at plate umpire Tim Lincecum as he walked to the dugout. The reliever had to be restrained by manager Dusty Baker and several Cubs coaches from going at Lincecum.

"Do I regret it? No," Hawkins said at the time, adding that he and Lincecum had a feud dating back two years. In 2002 when Hawkins was with the Twins, Lincecum ejected him from a game in a disagreement over the positioning of the reliever's chair in the bullpen.

Hawkins has 17 saves in 21 chances.

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Briefs

Rodriguez out with flu

SEATTLE — New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez missed his first game of the year Friday night with the flu.

Rodriguez was tied for the AL lead in homers with 29. He's hitting .279, with 71 RBIs.

"He's got a sore throat. He's got the flu," manager Joe Torre said. "It just blossomed today."

Garner sits one out

MONTREAL — Houston Astros manager Phil Garner was suspended for Friday night's game in Montreal and fined an undisclosed amount because of a run-in last week with umpire Brian Knight.

Garner was ejected during the Astros' 3-2 loss to the Expos in Houston last Saturday.

Jose Vizcaino had jumped over Montreal pitcher Jon Rauch to beat out an infield hit, and was walking back to first base when he was tagged by catcher Einar Diaz. Knight called Vizcaino out for making a move toward second base. Vizcaino said he never intended to advance, and Garner and Knight got into an argument.

"The umpire claimed I bumped him, which is not right," Garner said.

Garner was upset about the

one-game suspension, which was handed down by Bob Watson, vice president of on-field operations for Major League Baseball.

"I think ultimately the umpire has to have authority to make calls," Garner said. "We have to accept those things. It's that one side of the story has been taken and my side is not being considered."

Phillies option Abbott

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Phillies optioned right-hander Paul Abbott to Scranton Wilkes-Barre of the International League on Friday after he cleared waivers.

Abbott was designated for assignment Monday to make room on the roster for right-hander Cory Lidle, who was acquired from Cincinnati and moved into Philadelphia's starting rotation.

Abbott was 1-6 with a 6.24 ERA in 10 starts for Philadelphia.

Devil Rays release Fick

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Tampa Bay Devil Rays released first baseman Robert Fick on Friday.

Fick signed as a free agent with the Devil Rays in January, but struggled, hitting just .201 with six home runs and 26 RBIs.

Fick was an All-Star with Detroit in 2002 and played with Atlanta last season, hitting .269 with 11 home runs and 80 RBIs in helping the Braves win their 12th consecutive division title.

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Royals have a grandtime A's

Nunez, Buck foil Mulder's bid for his 16th victory

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — When the bases were loaded, Abraham Nunez and John Buck showed the experienced Oakland Athletics exactly what to do.

The pair became the first rookie teammates to hit grand slams in a game in at least 47 years and Mike Wood pitched six innings to lead Kansas City over the Athletics 10-3 on Friday night.

"I'm never going to forget that. It was my first one," Nunez said. "I knew I hit it good and that I had a chance."

Nunez hit his first career homer with the bases loaded off Oakland ace Mark Mulder in the eighth and Buck matched the feat in the eighth with his first slam off Jairo Garcia.

Buck and Nunez became the first duo to hit slams in a game since the rookie rule went into effect in 1957. It was the first time two Royals hit slams in a game.

"It was one of those at-bats where I went up there and saw

the first pitch and told myself 'I saw it good, hit it up the middle,'" said Buck, who was in an off-21 slump. "When you're struggling, you tend to think too much."

Wood (2-4), who had lost his last four decisions, matched zeros with Mulder until the sixth.

After Nunez's slam, the Athletics loaded the bases in the bottom half but scored just once.

"It's very rewarding," Wood said of beating his former franchise. "Maybe there's a little reason they let me go. Ever since they drafted me, it was my dream to pitch for those guys."

Mulder (13-7), trying to be-



Detroit's Carlos Pena scores as Anaheim catcher Josh Paddishandles a throw in second inning Friday night.

come the majors' first 16-game winner, lost at home for just the second time in 13 starts. He was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in seven-plus innings, struck out five and walked three.

Indians 8, Twins 2: Ben Brissard homered for the second straight night and the host Indians won their fifth straight pull within two games of A.L. Central-leading Minnesota.

Scott Lorton (2-2) had his finest start of the season and Cleveland roughed up Minnesota early in the first of 13 games remaining between the clubs. He went seven innings, allowing two runs on

seven hits. Carlos Silva (10-8) lasted just two innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Yankees 11, Mariners 3: Ruben Sierra hit a grand slam and drove in five runs and Jon Lieber (9-7) pitched eight innings. Bernie Williams hit a three-run homer and Jorge Posada a solo shot for visiting New York.

Ron Villone (4-3) gave up eight runs and 10 hits.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 0: Sidney Ponson and three relievers combined on a five-hitter, leading visiting Baltimore to its 10th victory

in 11 games. Ponson (8-12) allowed five hits while striking out six and walking one in six-plus innings. B.J. Ryan got out of a jam in the seventh, Jason Grimsley pitched a perfect eighth and Jorge Julio worked the ninth to complete Baltimore's fifth shut-out of the season.

Rangers 5, Devil Rays 3: Laynce Nix and Alfonso Soriano each homered and Carlos Lee (14-5) earned his 14th victory as Texas dealt visiting Tampa Bay its 13th loss in 14 road games.

Nix, 3-for-21 in his last seven games, hit a two-run homer in the second off Robb (5-6). Soriano added a solo shot in the fifth.

Rangers won their seven runs and seven hits in 5 1/2 innings.

White Sox 8, Red Sox 7: Aaron Rowand hit two home runs, the second a tiebreaking shot in the seventh inning, to lead visiting Chicago past the Red Sox.

Jose Contreras (10-5) earned his first career win over the Red Sox. Tim Wakefield (8-7) lost.

Tigers 5, Angels 3: Craig Monroy pitched a perfect eighth inning with an RBI single in the ninth inning, leading Detroit over the host Angels.

Brandon Jeng broke out of a long slump by going 4-for-4 with three RBIs in the Tigers' first victory at Anaheim in 12 games.

Esteban Yan (2-3) allowed two runs and 10 hits in the eighth, but picked up the victory. Troy Percival (2-3) took the loss.

Major League Baseball statistics

Through Aug. 13

American League

TEAM	B	R	E	RBI	AVG
Cleveland	40	96	1172	133	.363
Baltimore	40	96	1151	121	.362
Anaheim	40	96	1151	104	.362
Chicago	40	96	1151	104	.362
Detroit	39	96	1151	104	.362
Seattle	40	96	1151	104	.362
Chicago	38	96	1151	104	.362
Seattle	38	96	1151	104	.362
New York	38	96	1151	104	.362
Seattle	38	96	1151	104	.362
Minnesota	40	96	1151	104	.362
Seattle	40	96	1151	104	.362
Kansas City	38	96	1151	104	.362

National League

Kansas City	3886	489	1000	108	466	257
Tampa Bay	3925	499	1008	102	476	256
INDIVIDUAL BATTING						
Based on 350 plate appearances						
	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
ISuzuki Sea	503	67	181	4	38	.360
IMora Bal	360	84	124	21	72	.344
IGuerrero Det	395	53	133	15	67	.333
IVolquez Ana	444	88	144	25	89	.324
IThafire Cle	378	77	122	22	89	.323
ASanchez Det	332	41	107	2	26	.322
Teljada Bal	460	75	147	23	106	.320
MYong Tex	489	79	156	14	66	.319

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. routs New Zealand in women's basketball

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The U.S. women's basketball team routed New Zealand 99-47 in its Olympic opener Saturday. Five Americans scored in double figures, turning it on after a slow start.

Olympic briefs

Favored to win its third straight gold medal, the United States extended its Olympic winning streak to 18. Swin Cash, playing her first game in the Olympics, led the Americans with 19 points.

The United States led 63-24 at half-time and later opened a 55-point lead. "I felt the margin could have gone up to 80," said New Zealand coach Tom Maher. "I'm grateful that my players were able to cut it to 40."

Sheryl Swoopes led U.S. starters with 14 points and nine rebounds and starter Tina Thompson added 11 points.

The U.S. team won without starting guard Katie Smith, who was sidelined by a bruised right knee. It's uncertain when she'll play.

U.S. women blank Brazil in soccer

THESSALONIKI, Greece — Run ragged and thoroughly outplayed for most of the game, the U.S. women's soc-

cer team escaped with a victory that set off warning bells in its quest for gold.

A fortuitous foul set up Mia Hamm's penalty kick in the 58th minute, and Abby Wambach scored on a thrilling run in the 77th on Saturday to give the United States a 2-0 victory over Brazil on a day when most of the speed, energy and creativity belonged to the Brazilians.

The victory secures a U.S. berth in the quarterfinals, although that's hardly an achievement given that eight of the 10 in the Olympic tournament advance. The Americans can clinch their group — and the high seeding that goes along with it — with a win or a tie against Australia in their final first-round match Tuesday.

However, Wambach, who has 16 goals in 17 games, will not play against the Aussies. Wambach received a yellow card for a foul on Elaine in the 49th minute, giving the U.S. forward two yellow cards in the first round and triggering an automatic one-game suspension.

U.S. men romp through qualifying in gymnastics

ATHENS, Greece — The U.S. men's gymnastics team threw down a challenge to favorites China and Japan on Saturday, beginning the quest for its first Olympic medal since 1984 with a romp in qualifying.

The United States' score of 230.419 points was four-tenths higher than Roma-



Brazil's Monica, left, battles American Abby Wambach during Saturday's match.

nia, the reigning European champs and winners of the first qualifying session.

China and Japan competed in the final session.

Softball team routs Italy

ATHENS, Greece — Jennie Finch didn't allow a hit in three innings, and the U.S. softball team began its run toward a third straight gold medal on Saturday with a shortened 7-0 victory over Italy in its tournament opener.

Natasha Watley went 4-for-4, hitting a two-run double in the fifth inning to put the United States up by seven runs, invoking the mercy rule that ended the game.

Three-time Olympian Lisa Fernandez had an RBI single as the U.S. team extended its winning streak to 71 games.

Two Greek stars suspended for missing drug test

BY LISA ORKIN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Star sprinters Kostas Kentaris and Katerina Thanou were suspended Saturday from the Greek Olympic team for missing drug tests, a stunning blow to the host nation of the Summer Games.

Lambis Nikolau, president of the committee, said the board opted to remove the athletes until a decision by the International Olympic Committee.

The sprinters' coach, Christos Tsekos, was also suspended.

The case has shamed Greece and overshadowed the opening of what was supposed to be a triumphant showcase of national achievement.

Kentaris, the reigning 200-meter champion, is the country's most celebrated athlete and was its top hope for a gold medal in track.

Thanou, the 100-meter silver medalist in Sydney four years ago, is his training partner.

The two remained hospitalized Saturday with minor injuries reportedly sustained in a motorcycle crash early Friday, just hours after drug testers failed to find them in the Olympic Village.

Investigators have so far failed to find the driver or any signs a crash took place, and officers who canvassed the neighborhood were unable to locate witnesses who saw or heard the crash, police sources told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The IOC, meanwhile, is investigating whether the sprinters deliberately missed the drug test. A hearing is scheduled for Monday.

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Session.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



Bobby Julich, front, and Tyler Hamilton of the United States ride by the Parthenon in the Men's Cycling Road Race in Athens, Greece on Saturday. Hamilton was the top American, finishing in 18th place.

Italian wins road race as talented U.S. team withers

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Italy's Paolo Bettini pulled away in the final 100 meters to win the men's cycling road race Saturday, while one of the deepest groups of American riders in an Olympics failed to reach the medals stand.

Bettini, his arms outstretched and pumping, wept and blew kisses to the crowd after making a desperate surge past Portugal's Sergio Paulinho, who led much of the final lap around the 8.2-mile circuit Bettini. A former World Cup champion who built his training for the year around this race, finished the 139.4-mile test in 5 hours, 41 minutes, 44 seconds.

Paulinho was one second back, Belgium's Axel Merckx, son of the cycling great Eddy Merckx, with another seven seconds back in third.

The U.S. men's road squad, with four accomplished international riders on the five-man roster, was paced by Tyler Hamilton's 18th-place finish. At various times after the race's midpoint, three Americans — Bobby Julich, Levi Leipheimer and Hamilton — each flirted with the lead, yet none ever got to the front.

George Hincapie, a teammate of Lance Armstrong in each of the Texas's last six Tour de France victories, finished 24th along with Hamilton, 14 seconds behind Bettini.

No U.S. men's rider has ever won a medal in the road race in a fully attended Olympics. Alexi Grewal won gold at Los Angeles in 1984, when the Eastern Bloc boycotted.

Defending champion Jan Ullrich of Germany, bidding to be-

come the first back-to-back winner of the event, finished 19th, in the same pack with Hamilton and Hincapie.

Bettini and Paulinho entered the 17th and final lap side-by-side, with approximately a 15-second edge on their pursuers. They exchanged the lead several times, before Paulinho made a strong move at the start of the final straightaway. Bettini, however, came right back and held on.

The stirring finish came after riders endured nearly six hours of temperatures that exceeded 100 degrees over sections of the course that meandered through Athens' downtown streets, up steep hills and past the historic Acropolis.

Riders faced 90-degree temperatures in the relative shade of the starting line when the race began. The temperature reached 104 degrees on sunny sections of the course.

Fencing

Men's individual sabre: Italy's Aldo Montano rallied to defeat Zsolt Nemeskürty of Hungary 15-14 in Saturday night's saber final.

Keith Smart, the top American fencer, lost in the round of 16. Montano trailed by four points early in the gold-medal match, but came back to take the lead at 12-11. Nemeskürty tied it at 12, and the finalists split the next four points, setting the stage for a deciding touch.

Ivan Lee, who like Smart is from New York and first learned fencing at the Peter Westbrook Foundation, defeated Gianpiero Pastore of Italy 15-9 in his opener, but then had to face four-time gold medalist Stanislav Pozdniakov. The Russian dominated the bout, taking 12 of the first 16 points. He won 15-9.

Jason Rogers of Los Angeles lost 15-13 in the round of 32.

Judo

Men's 60kg: Tadahiro Nomura of Japan won a historic third consecutive gold medal, beating Nestor Khgeriani of Georgia in the final.

Women's 48kg: Japan's Ryoko Tani won the gold medal, defeating France's Frederique Jossinet. The bronze medals went to Julia Matijases of Germany and Feng Guo of China.

Shooting

Women's 10-meter air rifle: Li Du of China won the Games' first gold medal, setting an Olympic record.

Li scored 10.6 on her final shot, surpassing Liubov Galkina of Russia. Galkina had led throughout the round, but got only 9.7 on her final shot — her lowest mark. Katerina Kurkova from the Czech Republic won the bronze.

Li's overall score of 502 points set an Olympic record.

Army Spc. Hattie Johnson tied for 14th with 394.0 points. Emily Caruso was the top American finisher, coming in ninth with 396.0 points.

Women's 10-meter air pistol: Wang Yifu got China's second gold medal, winning on the final shot.

Russians Mikhail Nestruev and Vladimir Isakov took the silver and bronze.

Wang finished with an Olympic-record 690 points.

Sgt. 1st Class David Szarenski was the top American finisher. He tied for 13th place with 579.0 points.

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

BASKETBALL

Women

Australia 85, Nigeria 73
China 71, South Korea 54
United States 99, New Zealand 47
Brazil 128, Japan 62
Russia 69, Greece 62

FIELD HOCKEY

Women

Netherlands 6, South Africa 2
China 3, Japan 0
Germany 4, Australia 1
Argentina 4, Spain 0

SOCCER

Men

South Korea 1, Mexico 0
Argentina 2, Tunisia 0
Australia 5, Serbia-Montenegro 1
Malta 2, Greece 0

Women

United States 2, Brazil 0
Mexico 0, China 1 tie
Australia 1, Greece 0
Nigeria 1, Japan 0

SOFTBALL

Australia 4, Japan 2
United States 7, Italy 0, 5 innings
Canada 2, Taiwan 0
China 5, Greece 0

TEAM HANDBALL

Men

Spain 31, South Korea 30
Hungary 33, Egypt 28
Russia 26, Slovenia 25
Germany 28, Greece 18
Croatia 34, Iceland 30

VOLLEYBALL

Women

Germany 3, Cuba 2 (25-25, 24-26, 25-19, 17-15)
Russia 3, Dominican Republic 0 (25-12, 25-10, 25-12)
Japan 0 (25-21, 25-22, 25-21)
Greece 3, Kenya 0 (25-17, 25-22, 25-14)
Italy 3, South Korea 0 (25-17, 25-13, 25-19)

Swimming

Saturday

400 Individual Medley

Final

1. Michael Phelps II, Towson, Md., 4:08.26
2. Erik Vendt, North Easton, Mass., 4:11.81
3. Laszlo Cseh, Hungary, 4:12.15
4. Alessio Boggiatto, Italy, 4:12.25
5. Oussama Mellouli, Tunisia, 4:14.40
6. Ioannis Giannidis, Greece, 4:18.69
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400 Freestyle

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12. Wei Ling Chen, Taiwan, (12, 75:00, 13, 90:00, 17, 00:00)
13. Gema Peris, Spain, (11, 75:00, 13, 90:00, 16:50)
14. Erga Mohamed, Egypt, (14, 75:00, 14, 90:00, 16:50)
NR. Rosmarin Rosmarin, Indonesia, 0:00.

Cycling

Saturday

Men's Road Race

1. Paolo Bettini, Italy, 54:14.45
2. Sergio Paulinho, Portugal, 54:45.45, 1 second time
3. Axel Merckx, Belgium, 54:15.52, 8 seconds behind
4. Andrej Hauptman, Slovenia, same time
5. Kim Kirchen, Luxembourg, same time
6. Roger Hammond, Britain, same time
7. Frank H. Dommars, same time

U.S. Finishers

18. Tyler Hamilton, Marblehead, Mass., same time
24. George Hincapie, Greenville, S.C., same time
26. Robert Julich, Glenwood Springs, Colo., same time
NR. Jason McCartney, Coralville, Iowa, DNF.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Thorpe takes gold in event he nearly missed

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Ian Thorpe of Australia won a gold medal in the Olympic race he almost didn't get to compete in, edging countryman Grant Hackett in the 400-meter freestyle Saturday night.

American Klete Keller won the bronze.

Thorpe touched the wall first in 3 minutes, 43.10 seconds, well off his world-record time, but enough to win 400 gold for the second straight Olympics.

Hackett took silver in 3:43.35, while Keller, of Phoenix, claimed the bronze with an American record of 3:44.11. The American finished third in the same race four years ago at Sydney.

Thorpe came into the Olympics with the eight fastest times ever, including the world record of 3:40.08 in the Commonwealth Games two years ago. But he was fortunate just to get a shot at the race in Athens.

In the Australian trials, he inexplicably fell off the starting block and was disqualified. He got to race his favorite event only after teammate Craig Stevens gave up his spot.

Thorpe's primary challenger was Hackett, a distance star heavily favored in the 1,500 free. He was fastest during the morn-

ing prelims, earning the prime lane position with a time of 3:46.36.

But Hackett couldn't overtake the Thorpedo in the final.

Another American, 18-year-old Larsen Jensen of Bakersfield, Calif., took fourth in 3:46.08. The reigning silver medalist, Massimiliano Rosolino of Italy, finished fifth.

USA's Thompson denied ninth relay gold

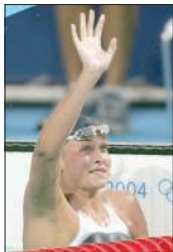
ATHENS, Greece — Jenny Thompson lost out on a record-tying ninth Olympic gold medal Saturday night, giving up the lead on the final lap as Australia won the 400-meter freestyle relay with a world record time.

Thompson, who has won all eight of her golds in relays, anchored the U.S. team and dove into the water ahead by nearly 0.4 seconds after Amanda Weir seized the lead on the third leg.

But the greatest relay swimmer in U.S. history could not hold it.

Jodie Henry passed Thompson after they made the final turn nearly in unison, touching the wall in 3 minutes, 35.94 seconds to break the mark of 3:36.00 set by the Germans two years ago.

Kara Lynn Joyce and Natalie Coughlin swam the first two legs for the Americans.



American swimmer Kaitlin Sandeno waves to the crowd after winning the silver medal in the 400-meter individual medley.

The Australian team also included Alice Mills, Lisbeth Lenton and Petria Thomas. But it was Henry who did the bulk of the work, swimming nearly a second faster than Thompson with a stunning time of 52.95 for the final 100.

Thompson swam her 100 in 53.77 — best of the American

swimmers and enough to give the team a national record of 3:36.39. The Netherlands took bronze in 3:37.59.

The Americans won the event in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympics, with Thompson swimming the anchor leg each time. This was their first loss since the 1988 Seoul Games, when they settled for bronze.

Thompson still managed to tie the record for most career swimming medals. She's now got 11, equaling the mark already shared by Mark Spitz, Matt Biondi and Carl Osburn.

The only knock on Thompson is that most of those medals have come in relays. Her only individual medals are a bronze and a silver, both in the 100 freestyle.

She has a couple of chances to erase that blemish in Athens, earning spots in the 50 free and 100 butterfly. But she's not considered a strong medal contender in either.

Ukraine's Klochkova holds off Sandeno in 400 medley

ATHENS, Greece — Yana Klochkova of Ukraine won her second straight 400-meter individual medley at the Olympics, holding off American Kaitlin Sandeno by just the length of a hand Saturday night.

The two swimmers made the final turn in virtually a dead heat, but Klochkova got to the wall first to become the first two-time winner of the women's 400 IM in Olympic history.

Klochkova, the world-record holder, took gold in 4 minutes, 34.83 seconds — just 12-hundredths of a second ahead of Sandeno.

Sandeno, of Lake Forest, Calif., claimed an American record with her time of 4:34.95 and improved two places from her performance in Sydney, where she finished fourth as an Olympic rookie.

Georgina Bardach of Argentina claimed the bronze in 4:37.51.

Sandeno still has plenty of work ahead. She also qualified in two other individual events and will swim one of the relays for the U.S. team.

Vasiliki Angelopoulou was the female first Greek swimmer to qualify for an Olympic final. She finished last in the eight-woman field (4:50.85).

Katie Hoff, the 15-year-old who swims at the same North Baltimore club as Michael Phelps, failed to make the final and vomited after her morning heat, primarily because of nerves. She finished 17th after swimming the second-fastest time by an American when she won the event in the U.S. trials.

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DUST RESISTANT

TEMPERED POLYCARBONATE

CQC

2.3 MM BALLISTIC POLYCARBONATE
NSN #1240-01-504-0984
PRESCRIPTION READY



VENTS INCLUDED

SHOCK ABRASION
DUST RESISTANT

TEMPERED POLYCARBONATE

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AFES
Army Forces

SPORTS



Southern Cal will open
defense of national title
ranked No. 1, Page 40

First gold record a hit

Phelps begins Olympic quest with world-best time

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Michael Phelps grabbed his head in disbelief, then thrust his left fist in the air.

The first one's out of the way. He's an Olympic champion — just like Mark Spitz.

Phelps began his quest to overtake Spitz's 1972 record haul of seven gold medals with a dominating performance in the 400-meter individual medley, breaking his own world record Saturday night and claiming the first U.S. gold medal of the Athens Games.

It was a good night for the powerful American team, which began eight days in the Olympic pool with a 1-2 finish. Phelps touched the wall in 4 minutes, 8.26 seconds, while teammate Erik Vendt was more than 3½ seconds behind but good enough for silver at 4:11.81.

"I'm a little bit less nervous," said Phelps, 19, of Baltimore. "I've got one off my shoulders and can relax a little bit."

It was a rousing start to the much-anticipated Olympic meet, but Phelps is just getting warmed up. He will likely swim in eight events, giving him a chance to break Spitz's record set in the Munich Games.

So far, Phelps is following the script of the greatest swimmer in Olympic history. All seven of Spitz's wins were in record time.

Phelps' first final was one of his surest bets. Last month, he lowered his own world record in the U.S. trials — a time that was nearly four seconds faster than any one else in the world this year coming into Athens.

Phelps cruised into the final with a time of 4:13.29 in the morning preliminaries, coasting through the breaststroke and free-style legs of the grueling race after building a comfortable lead.

He went much faster in the final, building a full body-length lead by the time the eight swimmers went down and back on the



Michael Phelps swims to a gold medal in the 400-meter individual medley at the Olympic Aquatic Centre during the Olympic Games in Athens on Saturday. Phelps set a world record of 4 minutes, 8.26 seconds.

butterfly.

"I felt comfortable and in control. I'm not worried about time," he said after the preliminary round. "I just want to get my hand on the wall first."

Bob Bowman, his coach, said Phelps told him he could go much faster in the final.

There were pockets of empty seats at the stadium on the first day of competition. Swimmers

and fans contended with a searing sun that pushed temperatures to 88 degrees at the 10 a.m. start of preliminaries.

Laszlo Cseh of Hungary won the bronze medal with a time of 4:12.15.

Italy's Alessio Boggiatto was fourth at 4:12.28 and Oussama Mellouli of Tunisia finished fifth at 4:14.49.

Phelps is expected to swim in

four more individual events and three relays.

On Friday, the U.S. coaching staff decided to have Phelps swim the final of the 400-meter freestyle relay Sunday, even though he didn't take part in the 100 free in the Olympic trials last month, which usually decides the pool of relay swimmers.

American sprint star Gary Hall Jr. revealed the decision after a

Medal count

Leading medal winners in the 2004 Olympics through 11 of 13 events on Saturday:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	1	3	1	5
China	2	1	1	4
Australia	2	1	0	3
Russia	0	2	1	3
Italy	2	0	2	4
Japan	2	0	2	4
Ukraine	1	0	1	2
Hungary	0	1	2	3
Turkey	1	0	0	1
France	0	1	0	1
Georgia	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	1	0	1



Italy's Bettini rides to victory

Page 46



Australia's Thorpe strikes gold

Page 47

■ Greek sprinters kicked out after skipping drug test, Page 45

■ U.S. women's hoops team rolls past New Zealand, Page 45

■ Olympic scoreboard, Page 46

Friday morning workout at the Olympic pool, on the eve of the first day of competition. He said he was told by men's coach Eddie Reese that the preliminary team would consist of Hall, Nate Dusing, Neil Walker and Gabe Woodward.

Phelps, Jason Lezak and Ian Crocker would be saved for the more desirable evening swim.

Leonard, Singh
rise to top of
PGA Championship
leader board;
Woods keeps
cut streak alive
but trails by nine

Page 40



Phillies
plowed
under
by Snow's
three-homer
game for
Giants

Page 43



Judge denies
request from
prosecutors
in Bryant case
to delay trial

Page 40

